

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 commands parents to teach their children the commandments of God. These commandments include loving God, and loving their neighbor as themselves. Love of neighbor commands, among other things, not participating in lies or assisting your neighbor in doing themselves harm.

In Matthew 19:4 Jesus states what should be uncontroversial, that humans are created male and female. A Christian cannot endorse the idea that these categories are mutable or subject to the pronouns, hormones, and knives of men without directly contradicting the founder of their faith, and indeed their God.

HB 25-1312 weaponizes the coercive power of the state to compel citizens to participate in the lie that a man may become a woman (and vice versa). Not only is this a falsehood which degrades the image of God in mankind, it is also a falsehood which has recently led tens of thousands of men, women, and children to permanently cripple, harm, and sterilize themselves. If passed, HB 25-1312 would both crush the free practice of religion among the citizens of Colorado and command (with threats and force) that Coloradans participate in their neighbor's self-destruction.

Not content with this, HB 25-1312 also takes the side of parents who wish to assist or inspire their children in self harm; and provides explicit mechanisms for the termination of the rights of parents for no greater crime than failing to affirm their child's rejection of reality.

In all this, HB 25-1312 makes a positive case that citizens may not freely practice their religion, speak the truth, or shepherd their children, but that all of these are the realm of the almighty state. As Jesus declared before Pilate (John 19:11), you have no power except what God has given to you. He expects you to use it well, and will expect an answer from you for what you affirm and support. I pray that you, the members of this committee will see the injustice of this bill, and use the authority you have been given to keep it from progressing further.

I will close with a quote from Abigail Shrier's book "Irreversible Damage":

"The dangers are legion. The safeguards absent. Perhaps the greatest risk of all for the adolescent girl who grasps at this identity...is also in some ways the most devastating: that she'll wake up one morning with no breasts and no uterus and think, I was only sixteen at the time. A kid. Why didn't anyone stop me?"

Thank you,

Jeremiah Demuth

HB25-1312: Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals

(Garcia, Stewart, Winter, Kolker)

Judiciary/Old Supreme Court:

April 30, 2025 Wednesday

Written Testimony by:

K. Destiny 1001 E. 62nd Ave

Denver, Colorado 80216

Written Testimony HB25-1321



I, K. Destiny vote NO.

This bill HB25-1312 Fosters child sex grooming, sex trafficking through Institutions: School Institutions/ Health Care Institutions/ Custody Court Institutions/ CPSA- Foster Care Institutions/ Guardianship Institutions. This bill is not safe for courts/ Institutions to force kids into harm.

This Bill HB-1312 is giving legal rights & Permission to Courts/ Institutions to Legally Sex Groom & Sex Traffic minor children through Colorado Systems. This Coercive Control sex grooming & sex trafficking Children through Institution of Courts/ Heath Systems/ Co systems is not safe or in the Best Interest of Children by the Standard.

I, Vote NO. I am a experienced survivor. I am a survivor Leader Advocate: Project Destiny: US Kids Rights Activist & educator. As by having many names. I am a child survivor of Familial "Trafficking. Groomed as a Child to be a sex object. Then Age Teens became a survivor of the Colorado Foster Care System & Custody Court Systems. As a Teen the Custody Courts forcing me as well CPS into Reunification Therapy with the pedophile stepparent & systems supporting CSO Offenders. The Custody courts & CPS don't have the Best Interest of kid Standards in mind. They Judicially Trafficked me back to a pedophile Familial Abuse Trafficking as Collateral. The Custody Courts/ SPS & Systems endangered me as a Child Forcing me into an unsafe situations court ordered a life of Child Trafficking as sex object. As a Youth at Risk, I was kicked out & then became a Sex trafficked survival sex, then as a failed life working in the sex entertainment/ Escort/ S& M Dungeons/ Rainbow Drag queen Cub Cultures Clubs/ Fetish shows/ Drag Parties/ Swinger Parties 2 girl lesbian Porn shows with sex toys/ strap on Dildos with S& M Fetish Role play. These were my learned Groomed life skill I learned of survival of circumstances of the courts Judicially Trafficking me/ Familial Grooming/ sex trafficking.

I was s sex groomed child by the systems to be a sex toy , sex object for pedophiles & systems to make money off of me. (Transgenderism Subcultures of youth sex trafficking) My Body was used as clitoral & property by systems to make money off of my life. My childhood & teen life was sex groomed & chosen for me by systems making money of me the youth. That is not in the best Interest of choice or Safety of Colorado Custody courts/ CPS or even DA & law enforcement. I was Groomed

Gaslighted manipulated by systems/ Custody Courts/ CPS/ Reunification Therapists health care forcing their will onto me & used by the systems that make money of youth genderism.
Gays against Grooming

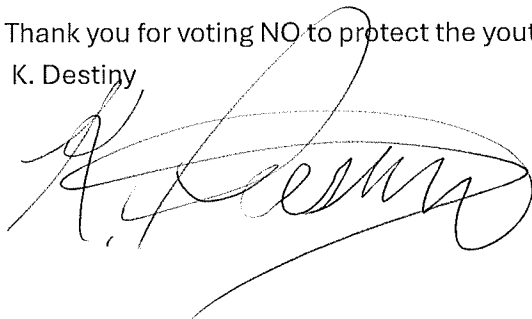
This Bill HB25-1312

Promotes legal system giving Permission of sex grooming the youth systems as acceptable normal standard of groomed sex treatment of children. Under the guise of false help as gender treatment- Instead it should be called groomed SEX Trafficking of kids to normalize sex with children minors with other minors to be normalized as normal. Grooming the child youth as acceptable normal treatment of children as sex trafficking Child Porn grooming for the sex industry. as Gays against Grooming is Teaching.

This Bill HB25-1312 Gives Institution legal permission to court order services to sexual groom & exploit & sex trafficking children through institutions, schools, health care systems, custody courts, CPS, Foster Care, Group Homes. All to make Money off the children of gender vulnerability is collateral exploitation of systems on the vulnerable youth. The systems giving themselves a court order permission to sex groom children legal in Colorado. This is not safe for the youth & was not safe for me or other vulnerable Youth.

Please Bote No on Bill HB25-1312 End Sex Child Grooming through Systems
End child sex Judicial Trafficking with court orders is a Death sentence to children

Thank you for voting NO to protect the youth at risk
K. Destiny

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Destiny', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Please seek education & make real laws that help children
Please make
Child Sex Trafficking laws to Protect Children

The Polaris Project.org
End Familial Trafficking/ Judicial Systems Trafficking through CPS/ Foster Care/ health care systems/ schools

Colorado Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking

I respectfully oppose HB25-1312, as I believe it represents an overreach of governmental authority and imposes burdensome regulations that may have unintended consequences for families, small businesses, and local communities. Legislation of this scope requires greater transparency, public input, and careful consideration of its long-term impacts. I urge lawmakers to prioritize policies that support individual rights, economic freedom, and support parental authority, rather than expanding state control in ways that risk undermining these fundamental values. Specifically, this bill will undermine parental rights, circumvent child protection laws, impose gender ideology in schools, and attack free speech and religious liberty.

My name is Brooke Kummerfeld and I have strong concerns with bill HB25-1312. This bill calls deadnaming or misgendering coercive control and says that this will effect custody decisions and the allocation of parental responsibilities. Coercive control is defined as an ongoing pattern of the use of threat, force, or emotional abuse to dominate a person and get them to submit and comply. The fact that this bill says it's threatening and abusive to call a child by their own name is unimaginable to me. This Bill assumes that parents who call any gender-nonconforming child by their first name are doing it to harm them and that children would be in a better emotional state if they were affirmed and encouraged to change their gender.

I have two children and I love them and I want what's best for them, and I believe that most parents do. I believe the underlying assumptions of this bill are incorrect. Children encouraged to be discontent with the body they are born with do not have the highest rates of mental health and physical wellness.

A Study published in the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics found that "Transgender and gender-nonconforming youth are diagnosed with mental health conditions much more frequently than young people who identify with the gender they are assigned at birth"

In the past, parents have been allowed to guide their children through difficult decisions until they are capable of making wise decisions on their own. This right of parents to direct their child's care and upbringing is defended in the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. If children can be removed or not placed in a parent's custody because that parent uses their child's given name and gender pronoun, that impedes a parent's ability to direct the upbringing of their child. If this bill is passed and parents are in a divorce situation, they might feel the need to parent based on fear of governmental interference instead of what they believe is best for their child. From a study published by the National Library of Medicine, adolescents placed in joint custody have better psychological outcomes than those placed in sole parental care.

Removing a child from any one of their parents is not in the child's best interest. I understand that the goal of this Bill is to try to protect children and I think that is a wonderful goal; however, it seems that this Bill cares more about a child's feelings than their actual well being. In an effort to not offend a child, it could inadvertently lead to mental health challenges for that child.

Essentially, this bill is unconstitutional- it goes against the parent's constitutional rights to raise their children and it's not best for overall health of their children. With all that being said, I would really appreciate if you would not support this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Brooke Kummerfeld

Becerra-Culqui, T. A., Liu, Y., Nash, R., Cromwell, L., Flanders, W. D., Getahun, D., Giammattei, S. V., Hunkeler, E. M., Lash, T. L., Millman, A., Quinn, V. P., Robinson, B., Roblin, D., Sandberg, D. E., Silverberg, M. J., Tangpricha, V., & Goodman, M. (2018). Mental Health of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Youth Compared With Their Peers. *Pediatrics*, 141(5), e20173845. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2017-3845>

Fransson, E., Turunen, J., Hjern, A., Östberg, V., & Bergström, M. (2016). Psychological complaints among children in joint physical custody and other family types: Considering parental factors. *Scandinavian journal of public health*, 44(2), 177–183. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1403494815614463>

Dear Senators and Governor Polis,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you—**do not destroy freedom in Colorado!**

This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday, silencing the voices of concerned Coloradans and cutting off critical debate. That alone should raise alarms about the process.

Even more concerning is that this bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children. Parents—not the government—know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are best equipped to make decisions about their children’s well-being. This bill tramples constitutional rights and turns loving parents into criminals simply for protecting their children. Parents are not criminals by just being a loving parent.

This bill doesn’t just target parents—it threatens every Colorado school, business, and public institution by forcing them to comply with government-mandated speech and ideology. Under HB25-1312, using a child's given name or acknowledging biological sex could trigger lawsuits, loss of custody, or civil penalties.

Schools would be forced to hide gender identity changes from parents. Businesses—including faith-based organizations—would be compelled to affirm ideas they do not believe, or face legal action. **This is not protection—it is coercion.**

HB25-1312's vague, broad language will create fear, confusion, and the tragic destruction of families. It will chill free speech, force ideological compliance, and pit the state against its own citizens. Colorado citizens should never fear government retaliation for speaking biological truth or standing by their convictions.

For the sake of our families, our schools, our businesses, and the future of Colorado, I respectfully urge you: **stand for parental rights, protect freedom, and vote NO on HB25-1312.**

I'm Anita Bartholomew, author of the upcoming book, ***Sacrificial Lambs**, A Liberal Reporter Exposes How the Progressive Left Harms Children in the Name of Gender Ideology* (Pitchstone, November 2025).

I've always said, the best thing about the US is our first amendment. The government can't coerce us to speak or to be silent. It can't force us to practice a faith we don't believe.

Yet, HB25 1312 would erase those unique rights in Colorado. It coerces people to call the gender-confused by pronouns that don't match their sex. It threatens punishment unless people act as if they share the quasi-religious faith that you can swap gender.

The worst punishment for speech and thought crimes is reserved for parents. The bill says calling your child by her given name is "coercive control." A parent who does so risks losing the rights to be with that child.

I do see coercive control here. But it's by the authors of a bill trying to impose their beliefs on others.

When you punish people who don't share your beliefs, who have the temerity to speak according to their own beliefs, you've created a state-mandated belief system.

Please don't do this. I say this as a lifelong liberal: It's illiberal. Cruel. Immoral. And unconstitutional.

Gender ideology is a mass psychogenic disorder. It will pass, just as the 1518 Dancing Epidemic passed, just as Spirit Possession Plagues passed.

One day, you won't want to be associated with such madness.

Play it safe. Make that day today. Vote no. Thank you.

Hello, my name is Jerry Rundgren.

I am born and raised in Colorado. I have had the privilege to raise 2 children. I also have 2 neices, Plus involvement in numerous other childrens life. children are easily influenced. constantly going in and out of stages. To allow such a DuraStic dIcision to a minor is a tragedy. We need to allow the families to have rights not the government in these matters. I've personally been involved in children custody hearings. This is not protecting children It is taking rights from parents. It also allows Colorado to disregard other State rulings. I dont understand what gives us this aThority It doesn't seem right. I believe this bill IS wrong for Colorado, It Stripes the rights of parents. Please vote NO.

Written Testimony

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Bill: HB25-1312

Date: 4/30/25

I am a transgender individual, and I want to stand up for myself and my trans siblings. In my years living and being transgender, I have found deadnaming and misgendering to be frequently used to belittle, demean, and hurt me. Obviously there are honest mistakes from people who do not know better, and situations in which legal documents which conflict with chosen names must be used, and this is understandable. But these are also tools that are weaponized by people who hold power over us, such as teachers, work managers, or unsupportive family members, to cause us harm, and that's an issue. More broadly, we deserve to be able to live with dignity as the people we are for our entire lives — from childhood to death. And we deserve to be remembered in death as we lived. I believe this bill will help us to achieve that. Thank you.

Name <i>Sam Muller</i>		
Address (optional) <i>1209 N Pennsylvania St Apt 5</i>		
City (optional) <i>Denver</i>	Zip (optional) <i>80203</i>	
Telephone: (optional)		
Email: (optional)		
Representing <i>Self</i>		
Position on Bill:	For ☒	Against
	Neutral	

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Bill: HB25-1312

Date: 4/30/2025

Name	Jonathan Gamm	
Address (optional)	1390 Adams St	
City (optional)	Denver	Zip (optional) 80206
Telephone: (optional)	303 668 9290	
Email: (optional)	jon-gamm@yahoo.it	
Representing	Self and wife Amy	
Position on Bill:	For	Against ☒
	Neutral	

Hello and first - thank you for your service as legislators. I am grateful to live in a country and state that respects its citizen's voices,

I came to hear the Bill discussed, and the views on both sides. I am a born-again Christian, veteran, father, and ex-EMP volunteer of 12 years in Commerce City. I believe all people are valuable as children of God, and I want those who represent the "For" side to know that I do not hate or desire to disrespect you. However, I am convinced that God made us male and female and for me to affirm your desire to change your gender, or remain silent, would mean disrespect and disobedience to our Creator. I cannot do this. This Bill would make me a criminal. That is a serious charge that the state of Colorado would make. Please vote no, and allow this important issue to be discussed, not legislated.

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Bill: HB 25-1312

Date: April 30, 2025

I was signed up to testify in person but could not stay past 8:00pm. I am a married mother of 3 children, Christ follower resident

of Colorado Springs speaking on my own behalf. The expectations we have for our legislators is to make just and good laws and punish criminals but we have no desire for our legislators to amend the dictionary and change the meanings of words. We don't need a bill to change the number of genders or assigning malicious motives towards the loving actions of parents and caregivers, making them the enemy. I reject the counter-protestors calling us unloving, we love all people because they are made in the image of God and we want them to be healthy. What we don't need to be doing is to penalize the rational adults in Colorado that are trying to help these young people that are crippled with mental illness. We cannot legislate someone's intent. Please vote against HB 25-1312. Thank you for your time.

Name <u>Amber Tanner</u>		
Address (optional)		
City (optional)	Zip (optional) <u>80908</u>	
Telephone: (optional)		
Email: (optional) <u>amberstanner@gmail.com</u>		
Representing		
Position on Bill: <u>HB 25-1312</u>	For	<u>Against</u>
	Neutral	

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Bill: HB 25-1312

Date: 4/30/2025

Hello and thank you chairman
and senators. My name is David
Hunter and I am Against
HB 25-1312. I am a gymnastics
coach in Frederick, Colorado.

Name	David Hunter	
Address (optional)	10433 Lower Ridge RD	
City (optional)	Longmont	Zip (optional) 80504
Telephone: (optional)	720-600-2570	
Email: (optional)	davidloren-hunter@gmail.com	
Representing	myself	
Position on Bill:	For	Against
	Neutral	

I see the issue at hand every day. The issue, at
it's heart, is brokenness. I have coached kids who
struggle with gender dysphoria. I coach dozens of
kids with divorced parents. Just yesterday, an 8-year
old girl told me she feels like a psychopath and
her classmates bully her. Tomorrow I will coach a
4-year old whose mother has abandoned her, and hasn't
spoken to her in over a month. Out of love for
these kiddos, I urge you to block a predator's
response to a real problem. The solution is not splitting
them from their parent. The solution is not convincing
children to have their private parts surgically removed.
These proposed ideas will only lead to further harm
and brokenness. Stand up to groomers who invite
children to live with them instead of their parents
on their "crack couch." As we reject this dangerous
"solution", we can still seek others out of love and
empathy. Seek and you shall find. God bless anyone who
protects our kids. Jesus is King.

- Coach Dave

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Bill:

Date: 4/30/25

Name	DAVID MBBK, MA	
Address (optional)	3409 W 6 ST RD	
City (optional)	GRBBLEBY	Zip (optional) 80634
Telephone: (optional)	970-978-0541	
Email: (optional)		
Representing	MYSELF / JESUS	
Position on Bill:	For	Against
	Neutral	☒

GOOD NEWS! JESUS DIED
ON THE CROSS SO EVERYONE CAN
BE FORGIVEN OF ALL SINS,
DELIVERED FROM ALL ADDICTIONS,
ROSE FROM THE GRAVE ON THE 3rd DAY! SO
WE CAN BE SET FREE TO BE A MAN OR A WOMAN!
ESCAPE HELL & INHERIT HEAVEN AS OUR ETERNAL HOME!

I PRAY IN CO SENATE 3/5/02 & 6 SENATORS REJECTED
GOD'S HOLY WORD, JESUS, & THE HOLY SPIRIT! AND
WALKED OUT!!
THAT SUMMER CO HAD 5 HISTORIC FIRES, HISTORIC
DROUGHT STARTED, GOV OWENS SEPARATED FROM HIS WIFE,
CO HAD OVER ~~800~~ \$800 MILLION STATE BUDGET CUTS!!
WEST NILE HIT CO.

CO KEEPS HAVING FIRES BECAUSE NO VOTE IN
BUIL BILLS!

THANKS FOR VOTING FOR EVERLASTING LIFE!

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Bill: HB25-1312

Date: 4/30/2025

Name	CHRIS BERGER	
Address (optional)	1132 N PINE DR	
City (optional)	BAILEY	Zip (optional) 80421
Telephone: (optional)	970 759 9237	
Email: (optional)	C.SON.BERGER@gmail.com	
Representing	NEW COVENANT CHURCH	
Position on Bill:	For	Against ☒
	Neutral	

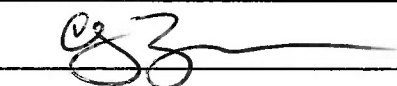
I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THE
HYPOCRISY OF THIS BILL. IT SEEKS TO
WHAT IT DEFINES AS
VILLIANIZE[^] COERCIVE CONTROL, WHILE
AT THE SAME TIME COERCING + CONTRAING

PARENTS IN HOW TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN + MANAGE THEIR
HOUSEHOLDS.

I BELIEVE THAT COERCIVE CONTROL IS A TERRIBLE THING, BUT THIS
NOVEL DEFINITION IS A STRETCH AT BEST. A PARENT LOVINGLY
TEACHING THEIR CHILDREN TRUTH IS NOT COERCIVE CONTROL.
THE WARP SPEED REVERSAL OF RECOGNIZING GENDER DYSPHORIA
AS A MENTAL ILLNESS TO TODAY CELEBRATING + ENCOURAGING IT.
A HOUSE BUILT UPON SHIFTING SANDS CANNOT STAND. AS THE
STATE MOVES AWAY FROM SOLID FOUNDATIONAL MORALS AND
CHASES THE SHIFTING SANDS OF EACH GENERATION IT WILL
BECOME WEAKER AND EVENTUALLY FALL.

THE FAMILY IS THE FOUNDATIONAL CORNERSTONE OF SOCIETY
AND THIS BILL WILL BE ONE MORE CHINK IN THE ARMOR OF
THAT CORNERSTONE. I URGE YOU TO VOTE NO ON HB25-1312
AND PROTECT OUR CHILDREN, OUR FAMILIES AND OUR SOCIETY.

THANK YOU,



①

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Bill: HB 25-1312

Date: 4/30/25

MY NAME IS LAURA NEHODA
A FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER
WITH 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
WORKING IN HEALTH CARE. I
URGE YOU TO VOTE NO ON

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

Name LAURA NEHODA FNP-C, MSN, BSN		
Address (optional)		
City (optional) FORT COLLINS	Zip (optional)	
Telephone: (optional)		
Email: (optional)		
Representing MYSELF		
Position on Bill:	For	Against X
	Neutral	

HB25-1312, AS A HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL, MY DUTY IS TO PROVIDE SAFE, LAWFUL, AND COMPASSIONATE CARE TO EVERY PATIENT. BUT THIS BILL TERRIFIES ME - NOT BECAUSE I OPPOSE RESPECTFUL TREATMENT OF ALL INDIVIDUALS, BUT BECAUSE HB25-1312 THREATENS THE LEGAL FOUNDATION THAT PROTECTS ALL OF US: DUE PROCESS. THE BILL ALLOWS UNELECTED ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES TO INVESTIGATE, PENALIZE, AND JUDGE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS - WITHOUT CLEAR STANDARDS, WITHOUT REQUIRING INTENT, AND WITHOUT THE SAFEGUARDS OF A FAIR HEARING. IT TURNS ENFORCEMENT INTO A SUBJECTIVE PROCESS WHERE INDIVIDUALS CAN BE PUNISHED BASED ON OFFENSE TAKEN, RATHER THAN ON EVIDENCE PRESENTED AND REVIEWED UNDER LAW. IN HEALTHCARE WE ARE LEGALLY OBLIGATED TO USE A PATIENT'S LEGAL NAME IN MEDICAL RECORDS, PRESCRIPTIONS, AND INSURANCE DOCUMENTATION. IF DOING SO - EVEN APPROPRIATELY - CAN BE REDEFINED AS "DEADNAMING" AND PUNISHED WITHOUT CLEAR DEFINITIONS OR RECOURSE, HOW CAN WE SAFELY DO OUR JOBS? THE FEAR OF PUNISHMENT WON'T JUST CHILL COMMUNICATION -

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Bill:

Date:

IT WILL PARALYZE IT,
UNDERMINING PATIENT CARE,
DRIVING PROFESSIONALS OUT OF
ALREADY STRAINED HEALTH CARE
FIELDS, AND ERODING TRUST IN

Name <u>LAURA METHODA FNP-C</u>		
Address (optional)		
City (optional) <u>FORT COLLINS</u>	Zip (optional)	
Telephone: (optional)		
Email: (optional)		
Representing <u>MYSELF</u>		
Position on Bill:	For	Against ☒
	Neutral	

A SYSTEM THAT SHOULD BE ROOTED IN JUSTICE. AS A PARENT, I ALSO WORRY DEEPLY FOR MY CHILDREN. WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY ACCIDENTALLY USE THE WRONG NAME OR PRONOUN AT SCHOOL? WOULD THEY BE PUNISHED, LABELED, OR SHAMED FOR A MISTAKE? HB25-1312 DOESN'T CLARIFY - IT EMPOWERS ARBITRARY ENFORCEMENT. OUR LAWS MUST BE CLEAR, FAIR, AND CONSTITUTIONALLY SOUND. THIS BILL IS NOT! IT ERODES OUR PROCESS, FOSTERS FEAR, AND OPENS THE DOOR TO SELECTIVE PUNISHMENT RATHER THAN EQUAL JUSTICE. PLEASE VOTE NO! PROTECT OUR RIGHTS, OUR CHILDREN, AND OUR INTEGRITY AS PROFESSIONALS AND CITIZENS

THANK YOU

LAURA METHODA - FAMILY NURSE
PRACTITIONER, MSN, BSN, RN

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Bill: HB 25-1312

Date: 4/30/25

Name <u>Veniamin Goncharov</u>		
Address (optional) <u>10846 Barclay Ct</u>		
City (optional)	Zip (optional) <u>80640</u>	
Telephone: (optional)		
Email: (optional)		
Representing <u>self</u>		
Position on Bill:	For	Against
	Neutral	

This bill is violation of
parents Rights and will
prey on innocent kids.

let me tell you
childrend do NOT

belong to state! They belong to
✓ parents only! Each parent has
every Right to know what is happening
with their children and take action as
parent see fit and appropriate

This bill is absolutely malevolent and
evil. Please do not let this
bill pass. Vote "NO"

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Bill: HB25-1312

Date: 2025.4.30

Senators, please consider this:

There is a deeper, sinister
underlying issue that this Bill
(HB25-1312) is only a symptom of.

It involves the Communist plan to

take U.S. over. More on this later. I was here waiting to
testify, and heard many testimonies both for & against, and the ONLY
professional/clinical testimony I heard was against this Bill!

Now about the Communist plan: JFK and his Democrat controlled

* Congress put a document into the Congressional Record in January 1963 to warn
U.S., the 45 Communist Goals. It told us how they planned to "take
U.S. over without firing a shot!" Sadly, we ignored their warning &
allowed them to infiltrate US and achieve virtually all of their goals!
Please look it up and read it. It's easy to find and it's a short read!

* These are the specific goals that relate directly to this bill &
the LGBTQ+ movement in general: goal #s 17, 24, 25, 26, 32,

* 40 & 41 !!! In a free society children are allowed the right/benefit
to enjoy their childhood innocence without being exposed to adult
ideas & behaviors until they mature mentally to the point that they
are ready for adult conversations. They should NOT exposed to adult
pornographic pictures, words (ideas) and videos or the gender-related
information. To subject children to those adult things steal their
innocence and it is child abuse. Let children be children & let

Parents be parents... VOTE NO on HB25-1312!
And Save US from Communism!!! Thank you for your service!

Name <u>Allen Campbell</u>		
Address (optional)		
City (optional)	Zip (optional)	
Telephone: (optional)		
Email: (optional)		
Representing <u>All Children & Parents</u>		
Position on Bill:	For	Against ☒
	Neutral	

Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee
HB25 -1312

Hello Colorado Senate Judiciary Committeemembers,

My name is Mimi Burch. I have two graduate degrees from the University of Kansas, a Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology and a Master of Science in Neurosciences. I have worked as a clinician at the Children's Hospital Colorado as well as Clinical Researcher with the University of Colorado. I share this information because I am writing to you as a resident of Colorado with substantial education as well as professional work experience in this state. I love this state and want the best for the future of all who reside here. I believe you do too which is why you serve our state in this capacity. Thank you for reading my testimony.

I have significant concerns with HB25-1312. First, there is no scientific research to support the bias of the state in this legislation. In fact, science objectively contradicts the socially constructed transgender ideology and brings clarity to the matter. Science provides undeniable evidence of an individual's biological sex. No amount of hormone, surgery, or therapy can enable a person to change genders. Even after extensive therapeutic and surgical intervention, every cell in his or her body will betray him or her, declaring the individual's unequivocal gender. As a society the most loving and supportive thing we can do is to be consistent with the genetics of a person's body. HB25-1312 denies this objective scientific reality which results in the destruction of a person and his or her body.

Secondly, the legislature through HB25-1312 infringes upon, rather than protects, the civil liberties of Colorado residents and educational facilities. Under HB25-1312, judges would be required to accept prejudice and bigotry to influence custody decisions. "Coercive control" includes everything from forcing criminal activity to "deadnaming" or "misgendering". The latter of these actions is not the same as the former nor does it share likeness to the other activities listed. Therefore, it should not be legally defined as such. Judicial rulings and recommendations should be free from bias and bigotry imposed by the state. Educational facilities and their respective oversight boards should be allotted the freedom to make determinations that are in the best interests of their students without undue restriction and regulation by the state. Additionally, legislation should be focused on improving the quality of education (33rd in the nation) rather than on an educational facility's policies related to dress codes and utilization of names other than a student's legal name.

Finally, classifying a labeling convention such as "deadnaming" or "misgendering" is prohibited as unconstitutional according to Article II, Section 10 of the Colorado Constitution and the free speech clause of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. The Bill of Rights prohibits the state from criminalizing right-think or wrong-think.

According to the Colorado General Assembly, the objective of effective legislative participation is to "reach consensus on a wide range of issues affecting every citizen and the future prosperity of Colorado". HB25-1312 affects every citizen and negatively impacts the future prosperity of Colorado. Additionally, the bill does not have consensus or support from a large population of residents, myself included. I strongly urge you to vote NO on this bill and thus preserve science, civil liberties, and the future prosperity of Colorado.

With humble gratitude,

Mimi Burch

April 28, 2025

To: Colorado Legislature

From: Jeff Cleghorn, Esq. (X: @jeffcleghornga)

Re: Testimony in Opposition to CO HB25-1312

I have been a gay rights advocate since 1993, now out of retirement, among many, to fight the scourge of transqueer ideology. This is the battle of our time. You are actively harming children, LGB, and women with this proposed legislation.

I'm a former US military intelligence officer and former practicing lawyer specialized in family law. I was Staff Attorney at the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN). I am also a previous commentator c. 2000 in *MSNBC*, *CNN*, and *Fox News* regarding gay rights matters.

I am also Past President of Atlanta's Stonewall Bar Association, and— in 2016— received its Longtime Service to the Community Award. I was also the 2011 recipient of the Human Rights Campaign's Atlanta Dan Bradley Humanitarian Award. I am also a former Board Member of Lambda Legal and Georgia Equality.

Make no mistake, most if not all of the legacy LGBT organization across the United States radically changed with the influx of transgender medical market-supporting foundation money after c. 2016, also partly driven by radical activists. These organizations no longer represent LGB people, or "transsexuals" (also recognizing biological sex), they work against LGB people. New start-up LGB organizations like the LGB Alliance and LGB Courage Coalition have been founded in response. You should be seeking their advice, not the advice of corrupt LGBTQ+ organizations.

I oppose CO HB25-1312 in line with concerns expressed by Do No Harm, LGB Courage Coalition and Moms 4 Liberty about this bill. Refer to their detailed concerns.

I also support R. J. Preece's call for an independent state investigation into the entire apparatus of the (national and international) transqueer lobby as it impacts the State of Colorado, including its impact on elected officials, to include organizations advocating gender / queer ideology and the parallel, profitable trans medical market. This also includes the marketing support services in schools, libraries, government, businesses, and affecting its citizens.

Please stop this madness right in its tracks. I am a former Democrat of several decades. I can't do it anymore with madness like this.

Jeff Cleghorn

For reference, please refer to my previous testimony in the CT Legislature.

*** HB 6638 - June 5, 2023 written testimony - OPPOSE**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/juddata/TMY/2023HB-06638-R000303-Cleghorn,%20Jeffrey-Opposes-TMY.PDF>

*** SB 214 - March 4, 2024 written testimony - OPPOSE**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2024/juddata/TMY/2024SB-00214-R000304-Cleghorn,%20Jeff,%20Attorney%20-%20Gay%20rights%20advocate-None-Opposes-TMY.PDF>

*** SB 214 - March 4, 2024 spoken testimony with Q/A - OPPOSE**

<https://www.youtube.com/live/yEfaV96IAIM?feature=shared&t=10163>

*** Joint Resolution 4 - March 18, 2024 - OPPOSE**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2024/gaedata/TMY/2024SJ-00004-R000318-Cleghorn,%20Greg,%20Gay%20Rights%20Activist-Opposes-TMY.PDF>

Photo showing samples from c. 2000, my role as a commentator, on CNN, MSNBC, and Fox.



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Photo showing samples from c. 2000, my role as a commentator, on CNN, MSNBC, and Fox.



Subject: URGENT: Opposition to HB25-1312 – Defend Parental Rights

Dear Esteemed Members of the Colorado Legislature,

I am writing to express my deep and urgent opposition to House Bill 25-1312, which I believe constitutes a direct violation of the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and a dangerous assault on the foundational rights of parents in our state.

This bill threatens the sacred trust and duty of parents to raise, educate, and care for their children by expanding state authority in ways that sidestep due process and constitutional protections. It raises the specter of children being removed from their homes without just cause, and of parents being judged or penalized for their deeply held values or beliefs.

This is not to say that we should not pursue ways to support and aid those this bill seeks to protect. This however is not the way. For groups that purport that government should not be involved in their Healthcare, this does just the opposite. It ensconces the State of Colorado in everyone's Healthcare, creates undue burden on an already overburdened system that cannot keep up with current legislation to support victims of already protected avenues of abuse, and positions the State as an adversary to parents, places of faith, and to 1st amendment discourse. There is a better way. I appeal to your sense of justice to consider that a majority of parents and groups identified by this bill are not in support of injury or malice toward those fighting an already overwhelming battle for their identity.

HB25-1312 sends a chilling message: that the government, not parents, knows best. This is a direct affront to American liberty and the essential structure of family and civil society. The language and intent of this bill suggest a move toward state control over children, a dangerous precedent that must be opposed in any free society.

I urge you to stand on the side of constitutional freedom, parental authority, and the preservation of the family unit. Please vote NO on HB25-1312, and protect the rights of Colorado's parents and children.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Your City or County], Colorado

[Your Email Address]

[Your Phone Number (optional)]

CO HB-1312 Testimony (04/30/2025)

Honorable and distinguished members of the legislature,

I trust that the other petitions made before this committee today have sufficiently addressed the legal and moral outrage that this body is considering. I trust that all assembled here today have both heard and understand the position that I rise to defend. Accordingly, I want to address this body with a reminder and a petition rather than an argument.

When you took office, you swore to uphold the Constitution of the State of Colorado which opens with the following words, “We, the people of Colorado, with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of the Universe...” I commend your oath and here stand to call you to uphold that oath.

This referenced Supreme Ruler is in no way to be misunderstood as an impersonal principle, vague ideal, or broad and inclusive title for any chosen god. History and grammar together remove any doubt that our constitution was referring to the Lord Jesus Christ, the one true and living God. Our Constitution, which swears reverence to the Lord God, which you have sworn to uphold, rightly acknowledges the truth that all human authority is delegated and entrusted authority.

Your authority comes from the people by lawful election, but it is not to the people that you are finally accountable.

Each of you, who do possess lawful authority, are servants of the true and living God who has established you and invested you with the responsibility of upholding justice, rewarding good and punishing evil. But the God from whom your authority is derived is the one who defines what is just, good, and evil.

Here is my reminder. Each of you are men and women under authority. Whether you recognize it or not, embrace it or deny it, you will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ and be made to answer for all that you did with the authority entrusted to you.

This is a weighty truth. And so, for the honor of the true God, out of love for you and the people you govern, I make this humble petition. Reject this bill, and all past and future bills that call evil good and good evil. For the sake of the people of the State of Colorado, end the madness that divides families, mutilates children, perpetuates death, rots the minds and souls of the vulnerable, violates the just laws of our State and Union, attempts to redefine reality, and rewards evil and punishes good. For your own sake, do what is just.

And furthermore, repent from this and all other wickedness and turn to Christ Jesus who you will find to be a perfect savior, so that on that great final day, when you are made to give account for how you lived and how you governed you can say, “I did my best to honor You, and though I failed in weakness, ignorance, or sin, the blood of Christ has covered my failure. In his death I died, and in his life I live.”

Thank you.



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

Monika <monikafrase60@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 30, 2025 at 12:34 PM

To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Please do not pass this bill. Children need to be an adult before they make up their mind on such permanently things. Parents have they right to tell them No. Sometimes they do it to fit in ur peer pressure. Counselors should try to get to the bottom of why an child is trying to participate in these things. My daughter wanted to experience different sexuality. I Loved her no matter what but asked her to just wait because there are consequences and your body is to be treated good and with no regrets.
Monika Fraser



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Every government bill for transgender rights

1 message

Flora Cardenas <cardenasflora123@gmail.com>

Thu, May 1, 2025 at 5:52 AM

To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

I'm against all bills that are for transgender rights. All bills for taking away parental rights, allowing such demonic evil for our kids to be mutilated or manipulated, or addressing issues of sex changes etc. . The government and evil politicians must leave our kids alone! Our rights as parents is to protect them from every evil. They are not a commodity or your identities, brain washing, misleading and misinformed to make these decisions. They are being abused by this corruption, these type of bills are against parental rights. Taxpayers shall not be held accountable for covering the costs of such ignorance. Politicians shall be dismissed immediately for their interacting, promoting or introducing any such bills or actions on our children or others. No more shall this be allowed!



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Hb34-1312

1 message

Jessica Christian <christianjessica73@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 30, 2025 at 11:20 AM

To: "committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov" <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

I Jessica Loomis disagrees with this bill. Parents are responsible for their childrens safe until they become an adult what their kid does after is their own will.



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

House bill 25-1312

1 message

Steve Olga Loomis <blessedloomis@hotmail.com>

Wed, Apr 30, 2025 at 11:36 AM

To: "committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov" <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

I vote against this bill because parents are responsible for the children until they are of the age of 18 and there well being is their concern do to the fact that their child mind is still developing and needs the parents help in guidance not added confusion by transgender adults altering their little minds to the corruption of how their minds are. First of all, God Almighty has created each child to uniqueness and each child will grow up to choose for themselves when they are responsible at adult age of 18.

Olga Loomis is he making?

Sent from my iPhone



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

How to submit written testimony

1 message

Stephanie Weaks <smweeks@yahoo.com>

Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 1:20 PM

To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Hi,
Having trouble online so here is my testimony.

Stephanie Weaks
9172 Martin Luther King Blvd. 80238. Denver

720-277-3809

My position is Against HB25-1312

I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312.
PARENTS are the creators and managers of their children's' lives. A massive overreach and assault on our God given and Constitutional rights.
A NO vote protects our children from unknown threats and harm.

Stephanie Weaks
Grandmother

Sent from my iPad



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

I'm totally opposed to your Bill HB 25-1312.

1 message

Linda Sagaille <revel210@icloud.com>

Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 7:24 PM

To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

How did this insane bill ever get written!? Let alone pass the house of representatives??

Please stop this insanity

That's my vote.

Linda Sagaille

Woodland park. CO



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Parents right

1 message

Susanna Akpanyah <susannacoffie27@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 10:36 AM

To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Please God gave parents right to train them for His purpose and not for any government to misleading our future leaders for us, there i strongly say NO for this bill. Thanks



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

SB 25-1312 trans bill written testimony

1 message

Marla F Benavides <mfernandezbenavides@yahoo.com>
To: "committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov" <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Fri, Apr 25, 2025 at 4:40 PM

Madam Chair, Representatives,

I respectfully ask you to imagine this:

Suppose you were going through a divorce—not from a place of hostility, but because relationships can be complex, painful, and human.

Suppose you and your wife had children together.

Now suppose, during that difficult separation, your spouse accused you of 'coercive control'—not because you harmed your child, but because you disagreed over sensitive issues of identity, belief, or upbringing.

Would you want a law so vague that your rights as a parent could be stripped away—not based on abuse, but based on differing values?

Would you want to risk losing your child over something as personal as how you speak to them, guide them, or love them through confusion?

This is the unintended danger HB25-1312 creates.

It does not just protect children. It weaponizes disagreement—and in family court, that is devastating.

I urge this committee to tighten the language. Protect children, yes—but also protect parents from wrongful accusations rooted in ambiguity, not real abuse.

Thank you

Marla Fernandez

Harmony Initiative



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Submitting Written Testimony

1 message

Jack Serr <cccpastor2000@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 4:55 PM

To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

To all in attendance today, thank you for allowing me to share a couple minutes regarding HB 25-1312. My name is Jack Serr.

Our founding fathers of our great nation left us a legacy to build on not deter from. It's unfortunate over the years that the settlers who came to America to get away from "government intrusion" are taking over like never before.

The role of parenting, guiding children into their true identity and future, is God given to parents and not the government. Families were created first, before the government came into existence.

The unrest in America has a lot to do with governmental leaders, stepping outside their jurisdiction. We are thankful for government assistance for laws such as traffic control, private property, lawbreakers to be off the streets, building codes, etc. When it comes to telling parents what they can and cannot do, the government has gone too far.

We need to get back to the basics of life and let parents have the authority over their family. When families need assistance for whatever the concern may be, there are some sound qualified pastors and counselors out there that can give wise guidance. For the government to try to undermine a parent's God given authority, ought to be illegal.

Please vote NO to HB-25-1312 for the sake of parental authority and not government intrusion. This bill cannot go forth because of personal agenda or ideological position.

Thank you for your consideration!



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Urgent request for you to vote NO

1 message

Patty Spencer <pattykspencer@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 4:35 PM

To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Please Vote No on HB 25-1312

Here is why:

It undermines Parental Rights. Parents should have complete say in the raising of their children. No one cares and is concerned for a child then the parents. It is a God given right and responsibility to raise our children.

This also attacks our core American values and right for Freedom of Speech and Religious Liberty.

It forces parents, teachers and school staff to comply with policies that violate their personal convictions.

This is an extremely dangerous bill.

Vote no!

Patricia Spencer
14431 WHEATLAND DRIVE
LONGMONT, CO 80504

--

Patty Spencer



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Vote NO on HB 25 1312

1 message

Veronica Gaylord <vlgaylord@gmail.com>
To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 7:42 PM

As native Coloradan, I am writing to express our deep concern and firm opposition to House Bill 25-1312—a dangerous proposal that undermines parental rights, threatens religious liberty, and seeks to enshrine radical gender ideology into Colorado law.

If passed, HB25-1312 would allow courts to consider a parent's refusal to affirm a child's so-called "gender identity" as a form of "coercive control." This includes using a child's legal name or biologically accurate pronouns—an act the bill implicitly defines as harmful, even abusive. Such language would empower the state to intervene in family life and, in some cases, even remove children from the custody of loving parents who refuse to embrace a lie.

Ironically, the legislation takes extra care to protect public entities from legal consequences when using a child's legal name for "legitimate public purposes." This contrast sends a chilling message: the state is to be shielded, while parents are to be punished. The implication is clear—parents are disposable, but the state is supreme. This must be rejected.

The God-ordained family unit—not the government—is the foundation of a healthy society. Mothers and fathers are uniquely called to rear and guide their children with love, truth, and care. When the state begins to usurp this role, not only does it trample upon parental rights—it assumes a godlike authority over human identity, morality, and family structure. Christians, and Americans across our nation, recognize this for what it is: a direct assault on truth and the authority of God. No government has the right to compel parents to affirm falsehoods or penalize them for adhering to their faith and biology. Scripture is clear—every person is created by God, male or female (Genesis 1:27), and no amount of medication, surgery, or political redefinition can alter the inescapable reality of God's design.

Furthermore, indoctrinating children with ideologies that deny biological truth is not compassion—it is cruelty. It confuses their identity, harms their development, and often leads to lifelong physical and emotional scars. No law should criminalize parents for lovingly telling their children the truth.

The Danbury Institute urges the Colorado General Assembly to reject HB25-1312 in its entirety. This bill represents a grave overreach of state power and a fundamental threat to parental authority and religious freedom.

It is the responsibility of lawmakers to protect children—not politicize them, and to defend the family—not dismantle it. We ask you to stand on the side of truth, biology, freedom of conscience, and the God-given rights of parents.

Veronica Gaylord



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

VOTE NO on SB25-1312

1 message

Molly Malsam <themalsams@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 8:17 PM

Reply-To: themalsams@gmail.com

To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Hello, my name is Molly and I am here to share my opposition to bill SB25-1312. This legislation prioritizes the agendas of people outside of the family over the sacred rights of parents to raise their children. The family is the foundation of our society, despite some people's strenuous attempts to convince people otherwise, and parents have a sacred, God-given role to raise their children to the light. They have freedom to do so in the ways they want to, so long as they are not abusing or severely neglecting them, in which case the government has good laws to intervene to protect the children.

While God is my guide on all things and you've already heard plenty of people argue against this bill for spiritual reasons, for those of you who do not believe in the Lord Jesus I want to give you completely secular reasons to vote against this bill. You may believe that there is some sort of scientific consensus supporting the idea that people should choose their own gender and that doing so, even going so far as to surgically alter their bodies, is good for them. You are tragically wrong and also very gullible if you believe that.

I'm a researcher by trade, so I know how to examine these scientific claims. Many articles, blog posts, speeches, and research reviews would have you believe that such a consensus exists, but they are based on fatal flaws such as choosing studies that are not valid or reliable due to small sample sizes and other problems, and/or using biased studies that seek to confirm desired hypotheses rather than using the real scientific method, which does not seek to validate the hypothesis but rather seeks to find support or denial of the hypothesis, and assumes it's denied or "null" unless very strong evidence supports it.

Here are some of the studies you'd have to ignore to believe that identifying as transgender and especially having sex reassignment surgery is good for people. I don't have time to source them all, but I can provide all the details if anyone wants to ask:

- Trans-identifying females report being sexually assaulted at higher rates than males
- Genital surgery is associated with high rates of pelvic floor and sexual dysfunction
- Multiple studies show that polycystic ovary syndrome which is a hormonal disorder characterized by higher male hormones in the body, is more prevalent in females seeking medical transition, which may be the cause of feelings of gender dysmorphia
- Puberty blockers may have a negative effect on neuropsychological functioning
- People who have undergone cross-sex surgery are 19 times more likely to die by suicide than the general population
- Long-term testosterone use in females may induce early menopause leading to pelvic dysfunction, increased mortality risk, and many other challenges
- Increased media coverage of transgender/gender diverse issues is associated with higher referral rates to pediatric gender clinic
- Trans-questioning and IDed teens engage in significantly more screen time and problematic screen use than peers
- There is a significant co-occurrence of gender dysphoria and autism spectrum diagnoses

- Intestinal vaginoplasty in patients with stunted penile growth from puberty blockers can lead to bowel inflammation, excessive discharge, persistent foul odors, and fecal leakage
- Trans-IDed people report higher levels of chronic pain and that increases among those receiving cross-sex hormones
- Suppressing sex hormone in males is linked to increased risk of dementia
- Treatments used to feminize transgender women result in altered brain structures
- Long-term testosterone use can comprise fertility and negatively affect ovarian follicle health
- Long term used of synthetic testosterone is associated with a decline in cognitive processing
- One peer-reviewed studies of 100 detransitioners showed that $\frac{3}{4}$ did not report to clinicians that they had detransitioned, indicating that reports showing low rates of reversal are wrong
- One study of detransitioners found that a large percentage of them believed in hindsight that they were suffering from internalized homophobia
- One study of detransitioners found that $\frac{1}{2}$ believed they received inadequate care
- Transmen ad 4-5xs more likely than females in general to suffer a heart attack
- Young transgender people are at elevated risk of contracting HIV and other STDs
- Medical transition reduces dating pool size and likelihood of marriage
- Up to $\frac{1}{4}$ of transgender genital surgeries result in incontinence
- 1 in 5 vaginoplasty surgeries lead to corrective surgery
- Vaginoplasty can result in fistula, stenosis, necrosis, prolapse and even death
- Genital surgeries reduce the capacity for orgasm in males and possibly in females
- Chest binding has a significant impact on lung function
- Tucking may affect fertility
- Puberty blockers and cross sex hormones negatively impact bone health
- Most young people questioning their gender are subject to some social influence that makes them feel that way
- The # of transgender youth clinics increased 50x over 10 years
- The profile of people seeking transition has shifted drastically, from overwhelmingly middle-aged males to predominantly adolescence females

Are you sure that you are sure that all of this is a good idea for people??? Vote no on 1312 since this is by no way a clear cut issue.



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Vote

1 message

Brenda Dennis <brenda.dennis333@gmail.com>
 To: "committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov" <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 11:28 AM

I Give HONOR TO HIS
 MAJESTY,
 THE LORD And SAVIOR Of my Life.Who
 HIMSELF IS THE TRUTH.
 Now Concerning changing children from
 who they are born to be ,
 This Is THE LORD'S TRUTH,What HE
 Choose For the child to be male or
 female is Right, not something
 From Fiction or to be a
 Frankinstan .
 Now Concerning deadnaming,
 that is making an agreement
 With death, changing their
 name from male to female and
 changing their name from female to
 male and Their gender.
 Children Are Not mature enough
 to make Life Changing decisions
 like that .
 Their brains are not completely developed
 enough, they are not mature enough
 spiritually , mentally, or emotionally
 to make these types of Life changing
 alters to their bodies.
 Genesis 1:27
 GOD Created man in HIS OWN IMAGE
 In The Image Of GOD Created HE him;
 male and female Created HE Them !
 Each With Their male and female parts.
 His Likes Is
 Morality, Reasoning, and Creativity
 Knowing Right From Wrong.
 As parents We have The Responsibility
 To Guide Own Children In The Way
 They Should Go And When They Are
 Older They Will Not Depart From
 The Right Teachings :
 Proverbs 22: 6
 The Key Word Is ,When They Are Old or
 Mature Enough.
 Only A male and female Can bring forth
 Children The Way
 THE LORD Intended For This To Be
 A male and male ,A female and female
 Cannot Glorify THE LORD'S IMAGE and
 HIS LIKENESS.
 HE IS THE LORD GOD! ❤️🔥

Mark S. Tenney QTSM CIR Green's Function Multifactor CIR and Affine Options SIRP ESG RS-ESG DMRP
RS-DMRP

April 30, 2025

Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: Colorado House Bill NO. 25-1312

Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals

aka the Kelly Loving Act.

Dear Honorable Senator Julie Gonzales Chair and members

Please accept this comment on House Bill No 25-1312

This comment reviews the timeline relating to the resignation of the medical examiner for El Paso County.

Mathematical models of the endocrine system indicate that gender affirming care damages the patients internally and is eventually a contributing factor to all medical related deaths.

Gender affirming care should be suspended for all persons in the state of Colorado and the providers required to explain why they are not taking account of the mathematical models of the endocrine system that indicate their treatments are harmful.

Sincerely yours,

Mark S. Tenney

On Saturday, October 19, 2024, I gave to Michael Allen the district attorney for El Paso County a memo on mathematical models and gender affirming care. This included a request to create a database of hormone levels in suicide victims from gender affirming care. This is because mathematical models imply that sometimes hormone levels can go to extreme levels and that includes hormones linked to suicides. (As I now know this also includes hormones linked to cardiac deaths and other slower deaths.)

The medical examiner resignation was announced October 23, 2024.

[https:](https://gazette.com/news/local/well-known-el-paso-county-coroner-announces-hell-be-stepping-down/article_6bae7f14-g094-11ef-8fc1-8f694egbdo46.html)

[//gazette.com/news/local/well-known-el-paso-county-coroner-announces-hell-be-stepping-down/article_6bae7f14-g094-11ef-8fc1-8f694egbdo46.html](https://gazette.com/news/local/well-known-el-paso-county-coroner-announces-hell-be-stepping-down/article_6bae7f14-g094-11ef-8fc1-8f694egbdo46.html)

This was not linked to this memo. It's interesting timing. I talked to the district attorney at the debate Oct 19 and gave him a printed copy in front of many people. The Democratic candidate, also got a copy by email, Jeremy Dowell.

It is possible the memo aligned with what the medical examiner knew already and he decided he didn't want to sign a pending death certificate as a normal death.

Regardless of the actual reasons of the resignation, for those aware of this sequence it indicates that a risk for continuation of gender affirming care is that medical examiners and mathematical modelers of the endocrine system and cardiac system can work together to show that gender affirming care recipients will be damaged and this will be a contributing factor to their death. Cardiologists are also a risk to gender affirming care.

To be second degree homicide on the death certificate, the gender affirming care has to be a contributing factor at a 50/50 level of probability. The published models of the endocrine system are sufficient for that. Even if the person dies years later, the law is it is still a contributing factor.

Because the patients are not told the treatment will be a contributing factor to their death, the treatment is fraud. A death caused during a fraud is a homicide.

It is important that medical examiners, district attorneys, state judges, expert witnesses, doctors including cardiologists, professors of applied math, statistics, science, medicine and so on all be able to work together to record deaths from gender affirming care as homicides. It is important that nothing delay, impeded or prevent anyone in each of these groups from assisting in this work.



An Open Letter to the Colorado General Assembly

April 11, 2025

As a coalition of Christians, we write to express our deep concern and firm opposition to House Bill 25-1312—a dangerous proposal that undermines parental rights, threatens religious liberty, and seeks to enshrine radical gender ideology into Colorado law.

If passed, HB25-1312 would allow courts to consider a parent’s refusal to affirm a child’s so-called “gender identity” as a form of “coercive control.” This includes using a child’s legal name or biologically accurate pronouns—an act the bill implicitly defines as harmful, even abusive. Such language would empower the state to intervene in family life and, in some cases, even remove children from the custody of loving parents who refuse to embrace a lie.

Ironically, the legislation takes extra care to protect public entities from legal consequences when using a child’s legal name for “legitimate public purposes.” This contrast sends a chilling message: the state is to be shielded, while parents are to be punished. The implication is clear—parents are disposable, but the state is supreme.

This must be rejected.

The God-ordained family unit—not the government—is the foundation of a healthy society. Mothers and fathers are uniquely called to rear and guide their children with love, truth, and care. When the state begins to usurp this role, not only does it trample upon parental rights—it assumes a godlike authority over human identity, morality, and family structure.

Christians, and Americans across our nation, recognize this for what it is: a direct assault on truth and the authority of God. No government has the right to compel parents to affirm falsehoods or penalize them for adhering to their faith and biology. Scripture is clear—every person is created by God, male or female (Genesis 1:27), and no amount of medication, surgery, or political redefinition can alter the inescapable reality of God’s design.

Furthermore, indoctrinating children with ideologies that deny biological truth is not compassion—it is cruelty. It confuses their identity, harms their development, and often leads to lifelong physical and emotional scars. No law should criminalize parents for lovingly telling their children the truth.

The Danbury Institute urges the Colorado General Assembly to reject HB25-1312 in its entirety. This bill represents a grave overreach of state power and a fundamental threat to parental authority and religious freedom. It is the responsibility of lawmakers to protect children—not politicize them, and to defend the family—not dismantle it.

We ask you to stand on the side of truth, biology, freedom of conscience, and the God-given rights of parents.

Sincerely,

The Danbury Institute and the undersigned individuals

THE DANBURY INSTITUTE

1455 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20004 | Post Office Box 130114, Dallas, Texas 75313 | DanburyInstitute.org

Dear distinguished state senators and fellow Coloradoans,

My name is Maeve MacMillan and i am transgender. I was born and lived in CO my whole life. I once was a transgender child and i knew it! All transgender adults used to be trans kids, even if they didn't know it at the time.

You have before you a vote of the highest degree of importance you will ever have, not only on the state constitution, but a vote declaring or declining human rights. That's what is at stake here.

HB25-1312, the Kelly Loving Act, is more than just about names, pronouns, clothing, or any other personal boundary any jurisdiction might try to control.

This bill is about the human rights of dignity and acknowledgement of transgender people, children and adults, as human beings with the same rights as everyone else. Within the state of being human are some rights not yet written into law. The average person has a right to be who they are, to use whatever name they want, to dress however they see fit for themselves, to act in the manner they choose. And typically, most people respect those things. We have a plague of hate in this country and worldwide that wants to end the human rights of transgender people. That's what's at stake here.

Those who oppose this bill would have you think we as trans people are deviant, degenerate, or somehow flawed. There is no significant or statistical evidence of that. Trans people pose no threat. We are no more dangerous to society than the average upstanding citizen like yourselves. Trans people are as likely to commit crime, or not! as anyone else. It is only fascism that seeks to oppress us, not logic or truth. The truth is not that trans children somehow don't know themselves. We know ourselves.

Most people have an identify, the self. Most people call each other by their names and pronouns for who they are. You aren't seen as the person opposite of what you are. You aren't called by a name different than what you identify with. But if a trans child identifies their self as something other than who their parents say they are or who society says they can be, can we please ensure they can be who they are. This bill ensures that. Many trans adults knew who we were when we were kids, but we weren't allowed to be ourselves. This act ensures the right for people to be themselves, as is inherent for any human being.

This bill is nothing less than a declaration of equal, human rights for transgender people including trans children, to be who they are.

Thank you

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This bill is nothing less than a declaration of equal, human rights for transgender people including trans children, to be who they are.

Thank you



April 30, 2025,

Esteemed Members of the Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203-1792
Dear Colorado Judiciary Committee

As Christian school leaders across Colorado, we are writing to express our deep opposition to House Bill 25-1312.

Though presented as a protective measure, HB 25-1312 redefines biblically grounded guidance and teaching as potential “coercive control” and represents a grave threat to parental rights; the very foundation of a child’s moral, spiritual, and educational development.

Under HB 25-1312, schools, including faith-based schools, would be forced to affirm and enforce a student’s chosen gender identity, even when it conflicts with biological reality and a family’s deeply held religious beliefs. The bill prohibits what it terms “misgendering” or “deadnaming,” even in cases where parents, educators, and religious leaders are lovingly guiding students according to their convictions and conscience.

Most concerning, the bill provides no religious exemption and undermines the fundamental rights of parents to raise their children according to their faith, values, and understanding of biological truth. It places state-imposed ideology above the God-given and constitutionally protected responsibility of parents to direct the upbringing of their children a principle enshrined in both scripture and longstanding American law. By stripping parents of their rightful role, HB 25-1312 threatens to criminalize sincere, faith-driven mentorship and open the door to unjust government interference in families’ private lives. Parents must not be punished for upholding biblical truths about identity and humanity.

Christian schools exist to partner with families, not to replace or override them. Our calling is to reinforce, not contradict, the moral and spiritual instruction parents provide at home. HB 25-1312 would force faith-based schools into impossible conflict between following the law and honoring their mission before God.

We respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB 25-1312.

- Protect the rights of parents.
- Protect the freedom of religious education.
- Protect the future of Colorado’s families and students.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

Phone 719.528.6906 | Fax 719.531.0631 | ACSI.org
Post Office Box 62249 Colorado Springs, CO 80962

Katy Ginn- Steamboat Christian Academy,
Mitchell Doughty- Flat Irons Academy,
Jacquelyn Graham-Inner City School,
Kati Melton-Association of Christain Schools International ,
Heather Klusek- Southeastern Chrsitian School,
Wade Williams- Resurrection Christian School,
Lynsey R. Perkins-Longmont Christian School,
Bryan Ritz-Valor Christian High School,
Jackie Schneider-Colorado West Christian School,
Weston Kurz-Dayspring Christian Academy,
Amber Pickens- Lionheart Children's Academy ,
David Cooper- Front Range Chrsitian School,
Christi Lynn- Association of Christain Schools International,
Lacey Klements-Association of Christain Schools International

Please do not pass SB 25-1312.

Parents have a legal, natural, and God-given right to parent their children in accordance with their beliefs and attitudes. Parents naturally know and love their children and are therefore the best arbiters and advocates of what is best for them. SB 25-1312 usurps parental rights and exposes children to exploitation from authority figures whose intentions may be dubious or harmful to them. This bill is a violation of parental rights, it is dangerous for children, it is unlawful, and will result in litigation in higher courts if it is passed. It should be voted **AGAINST**, without question.

William T. Christy

276 Millstream Terrace
Colorado Springs, CO 80905
719-602-0632
williamtchristy@gmail.com

April 30, 2025

Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee
1466 Bannock Street
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee,

Please oppose HB 25-1312, "Concerning Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals." This bill is an attack on parental rights and their ability to properly raise their minor children. A big part of raising children into adulthood is providing direction and correction when needed as parents. Parents speak into their children's lives from birth until they become adults in everything from staying away from electrical outlets and busy streets to setting a budget and providing advice on careers and what to look for in a spouse. The Senate Judiciary Committee should recognize that minor children are under the care and direction of the parents that brought them into the world, not the state, and reject this bill that strips away from parents the ability to use their own children's biological gender and given name. To support this bill is a step down a slippery slope that implies children do not need parents because they do not need direction and correction. Legal protections for transgender *adults over 18* would be an entirely different proposal but as this bill stands, it would paralyze parents by taking away an important part of raising their minor children and presuming that the government knows better than their own parents what is best for our minors. Oppose HB 25-1312.

Sincerely,

William T. Christy

Good afternoon,

My name is Gavin Acree, and I am a Colorado resident, a deeply engaged parent of four children, and someone who passionately supports the rights of parents, the health and well-being of children, and the appropriate limits of government and institutional authority.

I come before you today to express my strong opposition to House Bill 25-1312.

I love and support my children through every part of their development. However, science and common sense both affirm that a developing brain is limited by biology and experience.

The prefrontal cortex, responsible for decision-making, impulse control, and long-term planning, is not fully developed until around the age of 25 ([Giedd et al., 1999](#)).

Expecting minors to make profound, irreversible decisions—such as altering their bodies through hormones or surgeries—is not responsible care. It is negligence dressed up as compassion.

These are among the most significant decisions a human being will ever make. Yet this bill seeks to enshrine into law the idea that children possess full autonomy over life-altering medical interventions without the full oversight and protection of their parents. Every mature adult should recognize the catastrophic risk of such a policy.

As a parent, I must also address the role of schools.

Schools are not there to raise my children. Their purpose is to provide education—resources and teaching—not to impose ideologies, direct personal development, or undermine parental authority.

Schools reaching into private family matters by affirming transitions in secret or withholding critical information from parents, as this bill encourages, shatters the trust that families place in educational institutions.

The **Supreme Court of the United States** has long affirmed that "the liberty of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing and education of children under their control" is a fundamental right (*Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510 (1925); *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57 (2000)).

This bill also proposes to criminalize disagreement by redefining traditional parental caution, disagreement over pronouns, or medical hesitations as forms of "coercive control" or "discrimination."

While well-intentioned, it crosses a dangerous line: it **compels speech** under legal

threat, a violation clearly prohibited by the First Amendment (*West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, 319 U.S. 624 (1943)).

Freedom of speech includes the right not to say things one believes are untrue.
Disagreement is not discrimination.

From a scientific and medical standpoint:

- A large body of research shows that among children diagnosed with gender dysphoria before puberty, the majority—often cited between **61% and 88%**—naturally reconcile with their biological sex without medical intervention (Ristori & Steensma, 2016).
 - The recently published **Cass Review** (2024) in the United Kingdom—commissioned by the National Health Service—concluded there is insufficient evidence supporting the long-term safety or efficacy of gender-affirming medical interventions for minors (Cass Review Official Site).
 - Growing numbers of individuals who transitioned as minors have come forward to express deep regret, speaking out about the irreversible harm done to their bodies and the pressure they felt to transition prematurely ([Detrans Voices Project, 2023](#)).
-

In addition to these moral and constitutional concerns, this bill would place an impossible burden on teachers and school administrators:
They are not doctors. They are not mental health clinicians. They are not equipped to guide children through irreversible medical decisions or profound identity questions.

Rather than supporting children, HB25-1312 would silence parents, silence professionals, and place children on a path of irreversible consequences without fully informed consent.

The goal should be to **protect children, strengthen families, and maintain the proper role of each institution**:

- Parents should raise children.
 - Schools should educate.
 - Courts should intervene only where there is clear, substantiated abuse—not where there is philosophical disagreement.
-

I urge you to vote **NO** on HB25-1312.

Not because we are against supporting children—but because **we must love them wisely**:

Protect their futures, preserve the rights of parents, and uphold the constitutional freedoms that safeguard us all.

Thank you.

HB 1312 Testimony

Thank you Chair Gonzales, Vice Chair Weissman, and esteemed members of Senate Judiciary. Thank you Senator Winter and Senator Kolker for bringing this important bill. My name is Michael Neil and I rise in strong support of HB25-1312. While I may never precisely know the feeling of knowing your outside body not matching your inside nature, I have developed deep friendships with members of our transgender and genderqueer communities. To the bill... This bill does not require an individual to use pronouns and names correctly one hundred percent of the time. It just doesn't. Lord knows, I have myself used a deadname or a missed pronoun on one or two on occasions with friends who have recently begun transitioning, whether physically or not. This mis-usage is a call to do better and be in a state of constant improvement. However, pervasive refusal to learn, accept, and understand people's evolving lives is a deeper problem, especially among family who refuse to acknowledge their children as they are. According to S.T. Russell, A.M. Pollitt, G. Lee, and A.H. Grossman's research in the Journal of Adolescent Health, as well as R.B. Toomey, A.K. Syvertsen, and M. Shramko's research in the Official Journal of American Pediatrics, using a trans person's correct name can lead to a 29% decrease in suicidal ideation and 56% decrease in suicidal behavior. The study concludes that using someone's correct name affirms their gender identity and reduces mental health risks. Furthermore, suicide rates are significantly higher in trans youth as compared with straight counterparts, with adolescents transitioning female to male having the highest rate of attempted suicide at 50.8% and adolescents transitioning male to female having a rate of attempted suicide at 29.9%. In the name of our kids, I ask for an aye vote on HB25-1312.

My testimony today begs the Senate and the sponsors of this bill, 1312, to abandon this bill from consideration altogether. There are many disturbing factors to this bill. The first being the purposeful making of Colorado to be a “trans refuge”. Why do we want Colorado to be a trans refuge? Are trans people more valuable than other people? Do they contribute to our community in a more meaningful way? Or do they come here to receive medical care and other services on the citizens’ dime? With all their medical issues are they able to work and contribute to our economy more than they take? Why are Coloradoans on the hook for their medical care?

The second reason this bill must be abandoned is that it punishes speech in a nation where freedom of speech is a sacred right. How is “misgendering” or “deadnaming” more egregious than calling someone a “jerk”, “ugly”, “bitch”, or “asshole” or any other derogatory word? Why do trans people get a special category?

Thirdly, is the issue of potentially taking children away from their parents. While the bill was toned down because of justified public outcry, I believe it is still the intention of the sponsors to someday include that in a bill. This bill originally stated that it was to be used in custody cases. But who is naïve enough to believe that that is where it will end? If a child tells a teacher, counselor, pastor, or other mandated reporter that his parents do not affirm his gender identity, will the state remove that child from his home and parents?

I believe the state will do just that. Then the question is where are these children put? Will we have trans foster homes? God forbid! The sex-ed camp planned in Boulder is evidence that there are adults who want to encourage pre-pubescent children to explore sex and pleasure, and the idea that they might be trans. This is an abomination for our Creator and for a free and safe society. Only the most evil minds desire to sexualize children or reduce their identities to their gender. Children are much more than that!

As parents we are to teach our children our values, which might not necessarily be the values of the State. Homeschooling is allowed so parents who disagree with public education curriculum may teach their values. How can we allow that and then tell parents they can’t speak to their own children in accordance with the truth and their values?

Parents of trans children who go along with it are allowed to change their children’s name and birth sex on certain documents. Why should parents who want to tell the truth to their own children be held criminally liable for it?

I pray that the sponsors of this bill will reconsider this bill. Thank you for your time.

I am FORCEFULLY against HB25-1312 and here is why:

I have a grand nephew, a grandniece and another grandniece due this September. I think about their parents and how they have done a great job raising their children and how only THEY, the parents, have the right to guide their children along a path of being law-abiding, responsible citizens and followers of their Christian faith. These kinds of moral principles DO NOT come from the state. They only come from the hearts of the parents, guided by their faith. The moment the state crosses the line and tells parents what they can and can't believe and/or teach their children, we are no different than communist China, North Korea or Cuba. If a parent wants to steer their child away from what they believe to not only be harmful, or divisive, or immoral ideology, or a sinful position, they currently have and always MUST retain the right to do that.

The state of Colorado has made it clear that the legislature believes in separation between state and "church". If that is true, then WHY is the state of Colorado trying to be the church (or mosque, or temple, or other places of worship)? This is hypocrisy in it's most blatant form. The legislature CANNOT tell parents how to raise their children with whatever values of faith they want to impart to them while concurrently telling parents that there is a clear division between "church and state". This is an indefensible position and likely a violation of both the establishment and free exercise clauses of the First Amendment of our constitution. The "establishment of religion" concept is often governed under the three-part test set forth by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S. 602 (1971). Under the "Lemon" test, government can assist religion only if (1) the primary purpose of the assistance is secular, (2) **the assistance must neither promote nor inhibit religion**, and (3) there is no excessive entanglement between church and state. The Free Exercise Clause protects a citizens' right to practice their religion as they please, so long as the practice does not run afoul of a "public morals" or a "compelling" governmental interest.

Therefore, HB25-1312 not only inhibits a parent's right to exercise their family's faith, but also assaults the Free Exercise clause of the First Amendment

In truth, HB25-1312 is an attack on both parents and religious institutions that teach parents how to raise their children according to their faith. When the state tries to define what is moral, they have overstepped their bounds and usurp the role of the parent and their guiding religious doctrine. This should NEVER happen in a free nation.

Justin Clifford
Denver, CO
jbc563@gmail.com

House Judiciary Committee

Colorado State Legislature

State Capitol

200 E Colfax Ave

Denver, CO 80203

RE: Strong Support for HB25-1312

Dear Chair Gonzales-Gutierrez and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Leslie Kochevar, and I am a parent, business owner, and advocate from Thornton in Adams County. I am writing to urge you to pass HB25-1312, the Kelly Loving Act. This bill is not just about legal standards—it is about protecting real lives. It is named in honor of Kelly Loving, a transgender woman remembered for her kindness, her nurturing spirit, and her fierce support of others. Kelly was tragically killed in the Club Q shooting in Colorado Springs—a devastating reminder of how dangerous it can still be to live openly and authentically.

Her name now stands for something powerful: dignity, love, and protection for LGBTQ+ youth. HB25-1312 is more than legislation—it is a lifeline for families like mine, and for every young person who deserves to grow up safe, loved, and seen for exactly who they are

Why I Support HB25-1312 (The Kelly Loving Act)

When a child tells you who they are, the most powerful thing you can do is believe them. For transgender and nonbinary youth, being called by the right name and pronouns is not about politics—it is survival. Repeatedly rejecting a child's identity through deadnaming or misgendering isn't harmless. It chips away at their spirit. It teaches them that love is conditional, that they are not enough, and that they are alone.

HB25-1312 doesn't punish honest mistakes. It doesn't force anyone to change their beliefs. What it does is allow courts to recognize patterns of coercive control when determining what is in the best interest of a child. It says that ongoing emotional harm matters—that children deserve protection not just from physical abuse, but from emotional cruelty that cuts just as deep. Kids who are already fighting so hard to be themselves should not also have to fight the very people who are supposed to protect them.

I am the mother of a transgender child. I have seen the fear and heartbreak that rejection causes. There is no greater pain as a parent than holding your child while they wonder if the world will ever accept them. I have also seen the life-saving difference that unconditional love and affirmation can make. Our family's support has given my child hope, confidence, and a future. Every child deserves that chance—to be loved, protected, and free to grow into the person they were meant to be.

Kelly Loving lived her life lifting others up. This bill carries forward her legacy of compassion and protection. It reminds us that affirming a young person's identity can be the difference between hope and despair, between life and loss.

Call to Action: Vote YES on HB25-1312

Please, stand for love, safety, and dignity. **Protect Colorado's LGBTQ+ youth by voting YES on HB25-1312 without amendment or delay.** Our kids are watching. They are counting on you to choose their lives over politics.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Leslie Kochevar
Thornton, Colorado
lesliekochevar@yahoo.com

This letter is in regards to the HB25-1312 bill being placed before the Senate Committee.

Senators, as a Christian, I joyously serve a God that has created all things and given identity and purpose to all things. Even you, as a senator, have been created and given the immense responsibility to rule over the people of Colorado by the grace of God.

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive the approval for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. – Romans 13:1-4

Senators, you have been placed in authority by Yahweh, the one who derives authority. With being a servant of God, you must uphold his standards rather than the emotional whims of the people. And if wrongdoers are to fear your authority, how much more should you fear the authority of God when you go against Him? For he is the one who gave you this authority! Please repent and turn from calling evil, good and good, evil. Do not do what is right in your own eyes but do what is right in the eyes of God. Bill HB25-1312 is not right in the eyes of God because it allows people to continue in their sin and suppresses the truth.

First, this bill goes against the inherit identity that God assigns whether male or female in the womb.

*For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
– Psalm 139:13-14*

*So God created man in his own image,
In the image of God he created him;
Male and female he created them.
– Genesis 1:27*

Life begins at conception through the work of God and he does it wonderfully. Each person created in his image, whether male or female, are wonderful creations inherent with the identity that he has attributed. This bill goes against the image of God allowing people to continue to be confused in their sin and forcing others to compromise on their faith. This is not loving! We must allow truth to prevail and the gospel of Jesus Christ to be transformative to these people through repentance, love, and truth.

Second, this bill goes against the established family.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith – that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. – Ephesians 3:14-21

*Train up a child in the way he should go;
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.
– Proverbs 22:6*

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. – Ephesians 6:4

The family that God institutes is of father, mother, and children. Every family is instituted and named by God. This bill seeks to remove and separate children from parents and subvert the responsibility of the parents as authority over their children. It creates strife and war in the home, rather than love and truth to prevail. Parents are to train up their children in the Lord's Word. We grieve over the fact that some families do not follow the Lord's way of training their children, but we do not force them to comply. Instead, we preach a gospel of repentance, redemption, and transformation in hopes that they will believe. This bill forces the opponents ideology to be enforced in families that disagree with that lifestyle.

Lastly, God is sovereign over government, rulers, churches, family, and individuals. We pray to God for our leaders, for their salvation and for a peaceful rule. We pray for our enemies amidst persecution that they repent and believe and that God will deliver us from evil. We pray for our allies to hold fast to the confession of Jesus as Lord and Savior. And we fear God above all to obey Him and his peaceful and just rule.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is testimony given at the proper time. – 1 Timothy 2:1-6

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right

hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” – 1 Peter 5:29-32

Do not sign this bill, but instead proclaim the sovereignty of God and the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ, Leader and Savior of the world. He is the one who brings new life and gives true identity and purpose to you as a senator, to the transgender person, and to me within his rule and command. Repent and believe, lest the judgment of God come upon you. Trust in Jesus as Lord, Leader, and Savior to be lavished upon with immeasurable riches and love. And know that we, as Christians, cannot adhere to man’s laws if they go against God’s law.

To God be the glory, honor, power, and dominion!

Good afternoon. My name is Nathan Brasby and as a constituent of Colorado and a citizen of this great country of the United State of America, this bill greatly concerns me. It is blatantly unconstitutional and denies basic biology. As a father of five amazing young men, and a proud Jesus follower, I am standing up and making my voice heard.

I work for a Christian youth ministry in Northeastern Colorado and this bill, if passed, will impact the safety of the students in our ministry. On behalf of Youth Challenge and First Christian Church in Holyoke, CO I stand in firm opposition to this bill.

By classifying 'deadnaming' and 'misgendering' as coercive control, HB25-1312 is violating the first amendment through compelled speech. The first amendment of the constitution of the United States of America states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

While I can agree that to call someone by the wrong gender can be offensive, it should never be illegal. What is insane is that this bill is not making calling someone the wrong gender illegal, it is making calling someone their biological gender illegal! Every individual who is trying to convince the world that they are the opposite gender of who they are is literally arguing against every cell in their body that is encoded to its core with the DNA that determines their biological sex. Offensive speech is still protected speech. I implore you not to pass this bill. It is unconstitutional.

In case none of you have thought through the consequences of this bill, I would like to point out an absurdity hidden in its pages. By requiring public entities and education providers to allow everyone to pick which genders dress code to follow you are creating an unsafe environment. A young woman who is confused about her gender could choose to follow the dress code for the guys when it comes to swimming attire. Most dress codes allow young men to be topless in the swimming pool. This would allow a young woman to go swimming in a co-ed environment topless. Again, I implore you not to pass this bill. It is absurd.

This bill directly goes against my religious rights because it is trying to compel me to lie. Catering to the wishes of someone who is dealing with gender confusion is to lie to their face and to 'affirm' them does not help them. Affirming gender confusion perpetuates the lie that it is possible to switch genders. Every human is created by God as male or female from conception. Gender is not something that we get to choose, it is a truth that we are born with. This truth must not be silenced by coercion, intimidation or unjust laws.

I appreciate your time and ask you to uphold my religious rights and my freedom of speech by rejecting HB25-1312. Thank you.

Nathan Brasby

I am a lifelong Democratic voter and a resident of Colorado. I am also a supporter of Democrats for an Informed Approach to Gender (DIAG). DIAG is a national, all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization composed of lifelong Democratic voters who are committed to open, science-based dialogue on gender policy. DIAG supports free speech, civil discourse, and evidence-based policymaking while advocating for the protection of women's rights, the well-being of young people, and the integrity of medical ethics.

I urge the Committee to oppose HB25-1312. It is imperative that we preserve the rights of parents to protect their children from reckless and irreversible medical interventions.

Puberty, a normal and necessary developmental stage, has been pathologized and puberty blockers have become a standard of “gender-affirming care,” without any credible evidence of benefit and known harms including dangerously reduced bone density. When started early in puberty and followed by opposite-sex hormones, boys will be permanently sterile, having never developed functional gonads, and sexually dysfunctional. There is also considerable concern about the unknown effects on neurodevelopment and cognition — there is no evidence that interrupting puberty and then restarting it has no impact because there are no long-term data to support this experimental intervention.

Opposite-sex hormones can irreparably damage healthy bodies, affecting cognition, introducing endocrine disorders, increasing risk of serious illness like stroke, pulmonary thrombosis, autoimmune disease, and some cancers, and cause sexual dysfunction and sterility.

If this bill passes, parents who prefer a cautious approach to gender transition will be deemed abusive, and likely to lose custody of their children.

Progressive countries, including Finland, Sweden, Norway, and the UK have reevaluated and restricted drugs and surgeries to change sex traits, emphasizing caution and comprehensive mental health support over medicalization. These changes increasingly leave the US at odds with reasonable, evidence-based policy.

It is time for our policies to reflect the evidence. Introducing illness into healthy bodies is reckless and inhumane, more so in this vulnerable young cohort. Forcing parents to choose between losing custody of their children and causing irreparable harm to them is especially cruel. Please take your responsibility seriously and oppose HB25-1312 to protect our youth.

Thank you,

Rachel Loewenthal

Madame Chair and committee members,

My name is Caitlin Perna, I am genderfluid and use she/he/they pronouns.

I live in Denver, Senate District 34. I'm honored to be here today representing myself in strong support of this bill.

I'm a single parent of two grade school children (one transgender), social work graduate student at MSU Denver, and work for a statewide organization on mental health and suicide prevention for LGBTQ+ Coloradans.

The history of removing children from their families for their identities and beliefs is deeply personal to me. My indigenous ancestor, Pasquala Anderson, was forcibly taken from her home and placed in Carlisle Residential School – torn from her family and community simply to be socialized differently, to erase her identity. This historical trauma echoes through generations of my family.

Mind you, in many indigenous cultures there were multiple genders - some trans and non-binariied genders were even seen as sacred. Today, I stand before you as the parent of a transgender child, watching as similar patterns emerge across our country – states seeking to separate families who support their children's care needs. The parallels are unmistakable: children removed from affirming homes not for abuse or neglect, but because of who they are.

Section 3 of this bill protects families like mine from this out-of-state interference. It ensures Colorado won't enforce judgments that would tear apart families for providing gender-affirming care – care that research shows improves mental health outcomes and saves lives.

In my professional work, I use state data like the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey to discuss how our youth are impacted by suicidal ideation and self-harm. The statistics are clear: belonging saves lives. When we deny - or remove - children from supportive environments, we risk repeating the historical traumas that have devastated marginalized communities for generations.

Colorado has established itself as a sanctuary for LGBTQ+ families like mine, and I am deeply grateful. This bill strengthens that commitment by ensuring that history doesn't repeat itself – that no child will be removed from loving parents simply for being supported in their authentic identity.

I urge the members of this committee to vote yes on the Kelly Loving Act. Let us break the cycle of state-sanctioned family separation and give all our children the freedom to flourish as their authentic selves, within the families who love them.

Thank you.

Dear Members of the Colorado State Legislature,

I am writing today in strong support of HB25-1312 to Protect Trans Rights. As a gender apathetic non-binary person living in Colorado, this legislation isn't just a policy matter to me—it's deeply personal.

My journey with gender identity has shown me that expression and identity don't fit into simple boxes. Through my experiences in drag performance, I've discovered powerful ways to explore and express the various facets of my gender identity. This freedom of expression has been vital to my well-being and self-understanding.

But this testimony isn't just about my story. I'm speaking for my close friends in the transgender and non-binary community who face dangers and discrimination that no person should ever have to endure. Every day, I watch my trans friends navigate a world where something as simple as using a public restroom can lead to harassment or violence. They worry about losing their jobs, being denied housing, or facing medical discrimination simply for being who they are.

The statistics are heartbreaking. Trans individuals face disproportionate rates of violence, with many being physically attacked, seriously injured, or tragically killed simply for existing as their authentic selves. They are denied basic services, subjected to verbal abuse, and often forced to hide their true identity out of fear for their safety. This is not the Colorado we aspire to be.

When we talk about protecting trans rights, we're not engaging in abstract policy discussions—we're talking about protecting lives. We're talking about ensuring that my friends don't have to look over their shoulders when walking home at night. We're talking about making sure that trans youth don't face bullying and rejection that leads to devastating mental health outcomes. We're talking about basic human dignity and the fundamental right to exist safely in public spaces.

HB25-1312 represents more than just legislation—it represents hope. Hope for the trans woman who's been denied healthcare, hope for the non-binary person who's faced workplace discrimination, and hope for every trans person who's ever felt unsafe being themselves in public. This bill sends a clear message that Colorado stands against hate and violence, and that we believe every person deserves to live with dignity and respect.

I urge you to support HB25-1312. Your vote can help create a Colorado where everyone, regardless of their gender identity or expression, can thrive and contribute to our vibrant community. The trans and non-binary community needs more than just allies—we need champions who will stand up and protect our fundamental rights. Every day without these protections is another day where members of our community face unnecessary risks and discrimination.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this crucial legislation. The lives and well-being of our trans community members depend on your support.

Sincerely,
Arty

April 29, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am a Bible-believing Christian, mother, daughter, wife, licensed Colorado attorney, and real estate agent. I live for truth and the truth is parents have a constitutional right to direct their children's upbringing and their religious freedom also protects them from the state government overreach proposed in this bill which, among other things, threatens the physical custody of their own children by legally equating a parent not affirming a child's false gender identity as "coercive control." (See *Troxell v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57, 67 (2000); U.S. CONST. amends. I, XIV.) The proponents of this bill attempting to quash our rights must be shut down.

This abhorrent bill is advanced using language of tolerance when this bill is anything but tolerant. Forcing this agenda on the multitudes is dictatorial and against our God-given and constitutional rights. As a Christian, I believe in the existence of two genders as God created them. It's my right to believe this and follow the God of the Bible. It is also my right to raise my children accordingly. To claim otherwise flies in the face of more than a century of legal precedent. You can not simply override a person's rights because you feel like it. Moreover, the linguistic theft that is occurring in our society to use words that evoke a compassionate and emotional response and redefine them to fit your agenda is deceptive and misleading. The citizens of this state deserve better. They put their trust in you to represent them. But you can not do that when everything is couched in lies and fear. Each of you swears an oath when you take office to "support the constitution of the United States." CO Rev Stat § 24-12-101 (2024) It is a direct violation of your oath to vote in favor of a law that contradicts the U.S. Constitution and you are prohibited from doing so by the Supremacy Clause of our Constitution. U.S. CONST. art. 6, cl. 2.

Monday, I toured through the History Colorado Center with other families, and it was heartbreaking to see what Colorado is now known for. We went from a robust history rooted in Native American tradition and the tireless efforts of Americans seeking new land an opportunity in the West, to a state known for school shootings, recreational drug use, and now one that allows the psychologically compromised to dictate truth and reality for sane individuals under threat of the outright destruction of our families and loss of our children. As a Realtor, it is heartbreaking to watch good people flee the warped policies in my home state while we are inundated by sick people who want to take advantage of our tax dollars and our twisted state government.

Colorado, we are a very sick state. But it is not an answer to embrace illness and thrust it upon others. Stop the tyrannical trajectory and wake up. I ask you to think back to your childhoods, to your parents, grandparents, or whoever cared for you when you were young. What would they say about all this? Too many of our liberal legislators have gotten caught up in the new-age hype, being bogged down by the noise on social media and the internet. But that is not the

reality of life for your Colorado citizens. Open your eyes and see through the smoke and mirrors. Lawmakers, I urge you to face your fears and the cognitive dissonance you may encounter as you venture out to stop the insanity. You may have been part of what got us here, but you can choose now to honor the constitution and our rights. It's not too late. There is forgiveness and time to turn back the pages.

The supporters of this bill are using fear-mongering to claim that increased suicide rates of this tiny minority group of confused children that have had to grow up listening to the hogwash spewed out by our governor and his dark minions should require the sane population of Colorado to conform or risk losing their children. However, as the lunacy has taken hold, more research has emerged that your so-called "gender affirming care" which is a laughable misnomer itself, may actually exacerbate the issue and heighten inclinations of self-harm. There is also a growing number of de-transitioners that are largely ignored. You victimized these psychologically susceptible people by enabling them because of your demonic agendas and worldview, and then you spat them out on the edges of society and will no longer take them into account once your use for them is over. The worst thing about it is that we are talking about children here. In Matthew 18:6, Jesus said that for any who cause one of these precious children to stumble, it is better that a great millstone be tied around his neck and he be thrown into the depths of the sea.

This is all simply more evidence that there is actually truth and fiction. There is right and wrong. It is not hateful to say so as this post-post-post-modern society of liberal Coloradans would have you believe. It is the most loving thing we can do to help ground our children in reality and not allow the slippery slope of gender confusion to take hold during their formative years. It is the parents who care most for their children, not the government. It is the parents who have the constitutional and God-given right to raise their children, and paired with our right to freely practice our religion, you simply can not legally pass a law infringing on these rights. U.S. CONST. art. 6, cl. 2.

Trusting in the Everlasting God of the Universe Who Will Ultimately Prevail,

Ginger Giles

Dear Member of the Colorado Senate:

I strongly oppose HB25-1312, which is unconstitutional and seriously compromises parents rights, harmful to children and families. In only seeking transgender community opinions, the bill's sponsors admittedly skewed the results. This bill violates the:

*1st Amendment – Seriously compromises both Free Speech & Freedom of Religion
US Constitution Article 4 Full Faith and Credit Clause and the UCCJEA adopted by CO
Undermines historically protected 14th Amendment Parental Rights
Is an Abusive Physical and Emotional Danger to Children*

MAKE SURE TO READ THE VERY LAST SECTION – A HEALTHY ALTERNATIVE WHICH SUMS THIS UP.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Using someone's given name at birth and/or the pronouns that represent the gender/sex God created at birth, for a Christian, is respecting God, His creation, and Truth. Genesis 1:27: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female he created them". We cannot "affirm" (declare as true) what God's inerrant Word has told us is wrong, which would be a lie and therefore intentional sin. This is not hate or discrimination, but is compelling speech and religious discrimination. SECTION 7 (which incorporates discrimination in all aspects of CADA – including places of public accommodation) & THE ENTIRE BILL – due to interference with parental rights.

FREE SPEECH

The State cannot "compel" me to speak an unbelief, misrepresent my beliefs, and dishonor God. The Supreme Court has opined the 1st Amendment means a person cannot legally be compelled to speak words they do not believe are true in ***WV State Board of Education v. Barnette (1943)*** *The court held that the state could not force individuals to ... recite the pledge further saying: "if there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in ... matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein."* BILL SECTION 2 (XII), 7, which includes speech in places of accommodation and possibly employment.

ARTICLE 4 OF THE US CONSTITUTION – Full Faith and Credit Clause & UCCJEA

It is Colorado's constitutional responsibility to faithfully honor another state's judicial decisions, while this bill blatantly states "The court shall not give any force or effect to any foreign judgment issued in connection with the removal of a child because the child's parent or guardian assisted the child in obtaining gender-affirming health-care services in this state." Colorado has also adopted the UCCJEA which protects the parent of the home state and gives preference to court orders of those states. It "prevents shopping for opinions". BILL SECTION 2 & 3

PARENTAL RIGHTS

It is a parent's right and responsibility to protect a child from life-altering decisions until they are mature enough (are adults) to know what is best for themselves. This bill intentionally and incorrectly labels a parent's fundamental right to make decisions concerning the care, custody,

and control as “coercive control”. Also, a parent’s religious beliefs are at play. The Supreme Court has consistently interpreted the Due Process Clause of the 14th amendment to protect the fundamental right underlined above (**Washington v Glucksberg 1997 and others**) and protects parents from state interference. Closely connected – the next section explains trans-gendering can in a majority of cases be premature, so is unwise in children. Innately, as adults, we agree we should not provide alcoholic beverages or cigarettes to children, nor do we believe persons under 18 are mature enough to vote, nor are persons under 16 wise enough to drive. But yet we give them the option to choose permanent physical and emotional changes? Or even allow some adults to make this decision for them. BILL SECTION 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, PROBABLY 6,

ABUSIVE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL DANGER TO CHILDREN

It has been found by multiple studies that in 64% - 94% of children expressing “signs” that can mistakenly be seen as a need to change gender do disappear after puberty. Per the American College of Pediatrics “When this occurs in the pre-pubertal child, GD (gender dysphoria) resolves in the vast majority of patients by late adolescence.” It also states “environmental factors trump any biological predisposition” as found in a study of biological twins finding that environmental factors account for nearly 75% of what causes transsexualism in one twin and not in the other. This is what would be expected given the dramatic rates of resolution of gender confusion documented among children when they are not encouraged to impersonate the opposite sex. To be clear, twin studies alone establish that the “alternative perspective” of an “innate gender identity” trapped in the wrong body is in fact an ideological belief that has no basis in rigorous science.” BILL SECTIONS 2, 3,

INSTEAD OF THIS BILL:

- Make “gender-affirming health care” illegal for children under 18 or 19, when they can make those decisions for themselves – so as not to be pushed into decisions before they are mature enough to make them for themselves.
- Remove any teaching regarding “gender-affirming” from the schools, protecting our children’s rights to develop, in healthy environments, their own decisions free from unhealthy influence.

Madam/Chair, good afternoon

Thank you for allowing me to speak. I come from a Christian background and believe God's wonderful design for the family does not include interference from man ("government"). Following the Christian values given to use through the one God (including to love all) provide all the tools needed for raising a strong family. Yes there are bad apples, and yes mistakes, hardships and difficult times will always play a part, but this bill will create more confusion, anxiety and pain in an already very difficult part of life for parents/children as they work through the very trying times of moving from adolescence into adulthood. The element of this bill not only takes away parental rights and disallows parents' freedom of choice but will put children in an unnecessary position of emotional trauma thinking they may be the cause of such turmoil.

Please do not ignore studies that have shown the vast majority of children work through their gender issues by adulthood. There must be some question in your mind that God's plan for family structure built on a secure home lead by parents who are led by God NOT man must have merit. Do not put this wonderful plan in jeopardy.

Finally, I find it paradoxical that supporters of this bill (my assumption) also support a woman's (parent) right to abort a child, but do not consider them fit/mature enough to raise a child with their beliefs. Hard to imagine how one could compare giving an adult the right to take a child's life but put into question the parents' choice of how to raise their child.

I would like to end with a few verses from the Book of Jeremiah 17: 7-10

7 "But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.

8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

10 "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve."

Thank you and may God guide you on this issue.

HB25-1312 – Targeted Objections and Amendment Proposal

Submitted by: Marla Fatima Fernandez
Certified Paralegal | Mediator | Candidate for Governor
Date: April 30, 2025
To: Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee

General Position: Oppose HB25-1312 As Written

While I support protecting all individuals—including transgender Coloradans—from abuse and coercion, I oppose HB25-1312 in its current form on legal, constitutional, and practical grounds. The bill, though well-intentioned, is poorly written, overly vague, and legally dangerous.

Key Sectional Concerns & Amendment Suggestions

Section 2 – Definitions of Coercive Control (BEING STRUCK)

Objection: Striking this section removes any attempt to define what 'coercive control' actually means—leaving courts with ideological interpretation rather than legal criteria.

Amendment Request: Reinstate and rewrite the definition.

- Define coercive control as: 'a pattern of intentional, repeated conduct that demonstrably interferes with another person's safety, autonomy, or well-being—excluding disagreement, cultural parenting, or religious speech not resulting in harm.'

Section 5 – Public Entity Requirements (BEING STRUCK)

Objection: If left vague or removed without clarity, it fails both to protect administrative consistency and respect freedom of conscience.

Amendment Request: Preserve form flexibility but add a clause:

- 'Public entities shall not be compelled to suppress legal identity where required for official or legal processes.'

Section 6 – Dress Code, Names, and Educational Enforcement

Core Concern: This section risks violating parental rights, free speech, and administrative discretion in schools.

Amendment Request:

- Require that chosen names be honored only after parental notification and agreement, unless a safety concern is documented by school counselors.

- Protect school employees from discipline for accidental misnaming when acting in good faith.
- Reinforce school discretion to balance identity support with operational and parental integrity.

Section 8 – Anti-Discrimination Code (BEING STRUCK)

Objection: This section was the legal grounding for civil enforcement. Without it, implementation becomes symbolic rather than legal.

If Retained:

- Add due process language for those accused of misgendering—especially in employment and parental contexts.

General Legal Amendment

Insert a constitutional safeguard clause:

'Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the free exercise of religion, parental authority, or cultural expression, except where substantial harm can be demonstrated under clear and convincing evidence.'

Closing Statement

HB25-1312 is attempting to legislate identity without the legal clarity or spiritual humility needed to protect all Coloradans. I urge the committee to rework—not rush—this bill. We don't need identity enforcement. We need identity respect—grounded in law, not fear.

Proposed Amendments to HB25-1312 – The Kelly Loving Act

Submitted by: Marla Fatima Fernandez

Certified Paralegal | Mediator | Candidate for Governor of Colorado

Date: April 30, 2025

To: Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee

While I support the goal of protecting transgender individuals and ensuring dignity in public systems, HB25-1312 as currently written raises constitutional and due process concerns. These amendments are proposed to preserve the bill's intent while strengthening clarity, fairness, and equal protection for all.

I. Summary of Legal and Constitutional Concerns

- Risk of infringing on First Amendment (speech and religion) and parental rights protected by the Fourteenth Amendment
- Lack of clear evidentiary standards for defining coercive control
- Potential for disproportionate impact on cultural, religious, and immigrant families
- Unclear application in custody disputes and public institutions, including schools

II. Proposed Amendments

1. Define 'Coercive Control' Clearly and Narrowly:

- Limit to repeated, intentional conduct that causes demonstrable psychological or physical harm.
- Exclude isolated incidents or behavior based on sincerely held religious or cultural beliefs.

2. Add Evidentiary Standard Requirement:

- Require a 'clear and convincing evidence' standard before any court acts on claims of coercive control in custody cases.

3. Protect Parental Rights and Family Autonomy:

- Include language acknowledging a parent's right to raise children according to conscience, culture, and faith unless such conduct is proven abusive.
- Clarify that disagreement or differing beliefs do not automatically constitute coercive control.

4. Limit Government Intervention in Educational Settings:

- Require that schools balance chosen name policies with parental notification rights.
- Ensure dress code and form name use provisions respect diverse household practices.

5. Affirm Equal Protection for All Families:

- Add a clause stating that the bill shall not be interpreted to suppress constitutionally protected speech, parenting, or faith expression.
- Ensure application is neutral and not biased toward any particular identity group or worldview.

III. Closing Statement

These amendments preserve the dignity the bill seeks to affirm while protecting due process, family structure, and the soul of the law itself. Let this be a bill that brings clarity, not confusion—peace, not polarization. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marla Fatima Fernandez

Certified Paralegal | Mediator | Candidate for Governor of Colorado

www.FatimaFernandezForColorado.com

Formal Testimony Memo on HB25-1312

From: Marla Fatima Fernandez

Certified Paralegal | Mediator | Mother | Candidate for Governor of Colorado

Date: April 30, 2025

To: Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee

Subject: Testimony and Proposed Amendment – HB25-1312 (Coercive Control Legislation)

I. Formal Testimony Statement

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I submit this testimony as a certified paralegal, professional mediator, mother, and concerned citizen. While I fully support the intent of HB25-1312—to address real forms of coercive control and protect children—I must raise serious concerns about the legal vagueness and evidentiary risk embedded in the bill as currently written.

The current language lacks necessary precision and opens the door for subjective interpretation in family court, where definitions of 'coercive control' may be applied to culturally normative, values-based, or protective parenting. Without clear parameters, this legislation risks punishing healthy parental boundaries and exposing good parents—especially those in marginalized communities—to false or exaggerated accusations.

This bill could inadvertently shift the legal standard from evidence-based adjudication to ideology-based assumptions. That would not only compromise due process but also destabilize the parent-child bond we aim to preserve.

I urge this committee to tighten the language and adopt the following amendment.

II. Proposed Amendment to HB25-1312

****Amendment Language Proposal:****

Insert the following clarifying clause into Section 1 of HB25-1312:

'Coercive control' shall mean a pattern of behavior, occurring over a period of time, that is intended to isolate, manipulate, or dominate another person in a manner that causes demonstrable harm to their autonomy, safety, or well-being. The behavior must be:

- Deliberate;
- Repetitive; and

- Supported by substantial evidence.

The following shall be excluded from the definition of coercive control:

- (a) Cultural, religious, or values-based parenting decisions that do not result in physical or psychological harm;
- (b) Parental attempts to enforce rules, structure, or discipline that are reasonable and developmentally appropriate;
- (c) Isolated incidents that are not part of a coercive pattern or lack intent to harm.

Family courts shall be required to apply a clear and convincing evidence standard prior to any temporary or permanent parenting restrictions based on allegations of coercive control.

III. Conclusion

This amendment protects the bill's core intent while preventing misuse in contentious custody cases. I encourage legislators to pursue trauma-informed reform without creating trauma-inducing legal loopholes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Fatima Fernandez

Certified Paralegal | Mediator | Mother | Candidate for Governor of Colorado

www.FatimaFernandezForColorado.com

Vote NAY/NO on advancement of HB25-1312, [misleadingly] titled “Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals” and “Kelly Loving Act”...

=====

What HB25-1312 REALLY Would Do-IF passed on:

- Redefine “coercive control” to include “misgendering” or “deadnaming” your own child—making it grounds for losing custody in family court or through CPS.
- Define misgendering as a form of discrimination under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act—forcing every business and public space to comply.
- Violate the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children and make decisions about their care, education, and well-being without government interference.

HB25-1312 is an unconstitutional assault on parental rights and must be stopped. This is a dangerous bill. The government must be stopped from turning loving parents into criminals for refusing to conform to state-imposed ideology. Protect Colorado families before it’s too late by VOTING NAY/NO on passage of HB25-1312.

ADDITIONALLY,

The bill seeks to expand legal protections for transgender individuals across several Colorado statutes. However, such changes would come at the expense of parental rights and First Amendment rights, if HB25-1312 is passed.

HB25-1312 could have serious consequences for Colorado families, as well as religious organizations and institutions, potentially forcing parents to lose custody rights over trans-identifying children. “This bill would compromise the ability of parents to make decisions regarding their children and infringe on the rights of faith-based institutions to operate in accordance with their deeply held religious beliefs.

I cannot over emphasize the importance of defending the constitutional rights of all Coloradans while standing firm in the commitment to truth, parental authority and religious liberty. I, as a VOTING CITIZEN of Canon City, Fremont County, Colorado, 81212, I strongly oppose the advancement of HB25-1312 and I encourage all Democrats & Republicans to vote NAY/NO on passage of HB25-1312.

Sincerely;
Gary B. Ashby
Canon City, CO, 81212
Tel: 719-371-2401

Dawn Keough
17255 E Aberdeen Drive
Aurora, CO 80016
Colorado Resident

Article VI, Clause 2 establishes federal law as supreme, and the “Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.”

Amendment I: “**Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;**”

Or abridging the freedom of speech

In Article II of the Colorado Constitution: Section 4. **The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination, shall forever hereafter be guaranteed; and no person shall be denied any civil or political right, privilege or capacity on account of his opinions concerning religion;** but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be construed to dispense oaths or affirmations, excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the good order, peace or safety of the state. No person shall be required to attend or support any ministry or place of worship, religious sect or denomination against his consent. Nor shall any preference be given by law to any religious denomination or mode of worship.

The Colorado’s Civil Rights Commission, ironically, is consistently violating the RIGHTS of citizens in their freedom of religion by persecuting and prosecuting businesses, and is consistently ruled against in the Supreme Court:

Example 1. Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission

7-2 in favor of the baker and his freedom of religion.

Example 2. “The state of Colorado has agreed to pay more than \$1.5 million in legal fees to a web designer who won a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year that the right to free speech allows some businesses to refuse to provide services for same-sex weddings.” ~Reuters

You know that this bill WILL be challenged up to the Supreme court and it will lose. As a JUDICIAL body, I have a hard time believing you don’t know these facts.

Believing that a biological man can become a woman, and vice versa, is a FAITH; it requires a denial of what you see in front of you, and requires we all adopt a particular language around this faith, restriction of certain speech, and a belief that is contrary to nature and GOD. Every person that has taken a simple biology class knows that every cell in your body is coded for male or female. Your pelvic bones are male and female. The DNA code for your hormones in your body are CODED to produce male or female

pattern hormones, THUS the reason you must become a hormone drug user for life to maintain some features of the other sex.

My faith in Jesus and the biblical foundation of (Genesis 1:27) “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” is contrary to your insistence that I worship your false god that believes he can change creation into the image he wants with his own hands.

My devout faith instructs that GOD created my family, not the state.

- “Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him” [Psalm 127:3](#).
- “Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” [1 Timothy 5:8](#). (not the responsibility of the state)
- “Honour your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you” [Deuteronomy 5:16](#).
- “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth” [3 John 1:4](#).

I cannot instruct my children to walk in the truth when you insist that I must follow your state religion of lies.

Addressing the Supremacy issue, you have no right to create laws that abridge my freedom of speech. Not only are you FORCING the public to lie against what is right in front of their eyes, but you want to punish that speech that is protected by the Constitution KNOWING you are doing so, but believing you are somehow superior in morality to force it.

If you want to restrict speech, the proper channels are to ask congress to create an Amendment to the Constitution, or to call a state convention, and requires 2/3 state ratification. YOU KNOW that will never pass, so you go behind the supermajority of our state believing you can force it on constituents “just because you can.”

In Conclusion, you cannot restrict my freedom of religion (which relies on truth) because your own religion supports the idea that we can just BELIEVE someone is a different biological gender, and it happens.

I am asking you to kill this bill because you know it is not only UNCONSTITUTIONAL, but forces me to violate my own religious conscience and establishes a STATE RELIGION.

To the members of this committee:

My name is Claire Gray and I am writing to express my fierce and unequivocal support for HB25-1312. It is with a deep sense of urgency, frustration, and exhaustion—but also with unwavering clarity, conviction & honesty that I am expressing my endorsement in this bill to be passed as written, with its full protections intact. Not watered down. Not compromised. **Fully.**

I am a cisgender white woman. And I say that **not** to center myself in this conversation, but because apparently that's what gets people to listen—if you see me as “normal” by some broken societal standard, great! Then implore you to hear me when I say this: There is something deeply unsettling growing in this country — a kind of fear, disconnection, and dangerous thinking that's hard to name but impossible to ignore. Maybe it's always been here, but now it feels closer to the surface, more accepted, even normalized in some places.

HB25-1312 addresses these concerns by [insert specific provisions of the bill, e.g., “ensuring fair treatment in family courts” or “protecting parental rights”]. It's a step toward rectifying systemic issues that have long gone unaddressed. We've seen systems fail, people in power abuse their roles, and accountability slip further out of reach. Just recently, a judge was jailed — and while that may seem like 'justice', it's also a reminder of how deeply rooted the problems are.

We can't afford to look away or assume someone else will take action. This bill is a step toward doing what's right, protecting what matters, and refusing to let the worst parts of our system continue unchecked. Supporting this bill is not just about policy; it's about standing up for what's right and preventing further erosion of our values.

As right-wing lobbying groups mobilize to gut this bill, and as our Governor threatens to veto it, I find myself asking : **What are we doing? Truly—what the hell are we doing here?** The fact that we are even having this conversation, **again**—about whether or not human beings deserve safety, dignity, and recognition for who they are—is beyond baffling.

In a time when the rights of transgender individuals are under relentless attack across the country—when the Trump administration and its ideological descendants have declared open war on basic human dignity—Colorado has the opportunity to take a stand. And we must. i have never been so hopeful and so proud as i was on the day the bill intially was passed (nor have i felt 'since'). Dont take that away from us. You were elected by the people for the people. And while the consitution is detoriarting as you all sit here and debate the 1% of entirety of our nations population 'rights', it remains today. As citizens of this country, we all know why the constitution was written, What the constitution dictates, and who 's rights it protects.

I cannot believe we're even still debating whether trans people deserve safety, autonomy, or the right to simply exist without fear. These are people. Our people. Your people. Even the people who hate/dont understand them—we are connected to this fight whether we like it or not.

Trans people deserve the same rights, opportunities, and protection every human being is entitled to. Nothing less. This bill doesn't go far enough—but it's a start. And to see that even **this** is controversial? It's **horrifying**.

We are not talking about ideology—**we're talking about human lives**. And if someone's mere existence threatens your comfort so deeply, that is not a “political opinion”—that's a mirror you need to hold up to yourself.

Let me be blunt: the level of obsession some people have with how others identify, live, or love—it's creepy. It's invasive. And frankly, it's gross. If you're spending this much energy trying to deny someone else's existence, you've lost the plot entirely.

And yes, I'm angry. I'm angry because I have to keep explaining why life ; today why trans life matters. But again, why am i even having to explain to other humana why other HUMANS should 'exist' ?! I'm angry that people who know safety and privilege are fighting to make sure others never get a taste of it. I'm angry that the baseline needs outlined in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs—safety, belonging, self-esteem—are somehow, **still** up for debate when it comes to trans individuals.

If you're comfortable in this moment, and you oppose this bill: **shame on you**. Because trans people don't know what that comfort feels like. They don't get to walk through the world without fear. They don't get to assume safety. And if this bill makes *you* “**uncomfortable**”? *Good*. Sit with that. **This is not about your comfort. It's about their survival.**

HB25-1312 is not radical. It is not excessive. **It is the absolute minimum a decent society should provide**. I urge you to pass it as written, without weakening it to appease those who view trans lives as optional, expendable, or offensive. The future will remember who stood for justice—and who chose cowardice.

We are connected. We need each other. And **trans lives depend on you doing the right thing and doing your job**.

Thanks for your time and hopefully, for your considerarion as well.

With Gratitude,

Claire

Testimony in Support of HB25-1312

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Thanks for your time and hopefully, for your consideration as well.

With Gratitude,

Claire

Delaney Jones
Regarding "Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals"
30 April 2025

My name is Delaney Jones, and I am a concerned Colorado resident, a former public school teacher, and a mother. I am deeply concerned about the way this bill threatens the rights of parents and harms children.

As a parent, it is my job to protect my children and raise them as I see fit. Children have developing brains, and do not have the capacity to make life altering decisions about their gender. We also know that a high proportion of prepubertal children with gender dysphoria do not continue to show such dysphoria after puberty, and children have begun transitioning in peer groups, which suggests a possibility of social contagion being a factor in the decision. As parents, it is our responsibility to affirm children in their God given gender, rather than to affirm their dysphoria.

According to a study done on data from the U.S. transgender survey, 13% of transgender people choose to de-transition. This indicates a substantial amount of people regret making a decision that in many cases they can never fully reverse. I believe the amount of transgender regret will increase significantly the more we begin encouraging young people to explore their gender and affirm their feelings of dysphoria.

Taking children away from loving parents just because they refuse to affirm their gender dysphoria is abhorrent. The Colorado foster system is already overwhelmed. About 10 children enter the foster system each day, and there are approximately 3,400 children in the system with only 2,400 foster homes caring for those children. If we began taking children away from families because they are affirming their God given gender, the foster system would be flooded with an influx of children it has no room to care for. It would take valuable resources away from the system that is already struggling to care for children who have suffered significant trauma and deeply need a loving home.

This bill does not protect transgender individuals, but rather puts children at risk by encouraging them to make decisions they do not have the capacity to make wisely. It threatens to destroy homes by taking children away from parents who love them and want their best, in a way that would also wreak havoc in the already overwhelmed foster care system. Please protect our state's families and children by voting no on this bill. Thank you.

April 29th, 2025

To: Colorado Legislature

From: Bev Jackson (X and Substack: @BevJacksonAuth)

Re: Testimony in Opposition to CO HB25-1312

I grew up in the United Kingdom and came out as a lesbian in the 1960s. I was a “butch” lesbian and became a founding member of the UK Gay Liberation Front in London in 1970. I have been an advocate for gay rights (and multiple other progressive causes, from reproductive rights to the rights of refugees) ever since. I thought gay rights were doing really well, especially after gay marriage was legalized, and gay and lesbian couples were allowed to adopt children.

It was not until 2016 that I noticed that something had gone wrong with the gay rights movement. I discovered that teenage boys who were “gender non-conforming” – who were “effeminate” – were calling themselves girls and seeking puberty-blocking drugs and cross-sex hormones to change their bodies. Then I discovered that girls who were “gender non-conforming” (“masculine” – like me) were calling themselves boys and seeking puberty-blocking drugs and cross-sex hormones to change their bodies. Many of them were binding their breasts (something that reminded me of Chinese foot-binding) and getting mastectomies.

When I discovered that around 70% of teenagers seeking these interventions were girls, I was even more concerned. Teenage girls are prone to feel uncomfortable about their bodies: we see it in anorexia and self-harming, which are far more common in girls. Especially girls who are worried about their sexual orientation may feel more self-conscious about their bodies. These were girls like me. I am 100% certain I would have demanded these drugs and surgeries if I was growing up now. It is encouraged online, by the medical profession, and in schools. Shamefully, some clinicians are profiting in the most unscrupulous way from these teens’ distress. Very fortunately, I was under no such pressure in my youth. I eventually reconciled myself with being a woman and had two children, whom I raised with another woman: motherhood was and is the best part of my life.

In 2019 I decided to abandon my work for refugees and renew the struggle for gay rights, to fight what I saw as a homophobic trend masquerading as a civil rights movement. I want young people who are becoming aware of their gay, lesbian, or bisexual sexual orientation in their teens to have inspiring role models, to feel good about themselves: “Sing if you’re glad to be gay!” we sang in the 1970s. How far away that seems now.

I am convinced most people are well-intentioned. I am sure those of you who support CO HB25-1312 believe that you are helping children to be themselves. Of course you believe that! You have been told by organizations you trust that some kids are born in the wrong body, and just as you learned to accept gay and lesbian people way back when, you think you must now accept that these kids need to alter their bodies to match their gender identity.

As soon as I tell you this is all hogwash you are likely to tune out. But that is what it is. Gender identity is hogwash and this Bill would actually harm the kids you think you are helping. We need to change society to accept that girls and boys don't have to fit any kind of stereotypes – not change their bodies to fit those old-fashioned stereotypes.

All the legacy gay rights organizations such as GLAAD and HRC, and civil rights organizations such as the ACLU – even international bodies like Amnesty International – have signed up to gender identity. Today, they all promote the view that – to put it in very crass terms – some lesbians have penises and some gay men have vulvas. It is dangerous, homophobic hogwash.

Maybe you saw the video of little Kai Shappley? Did you see the part when his mother said of Kai, who was then just two years old, that she thought Kai might be gay, and added: “That could not happen. That would not happen.” Kai went on to become a poster child for the trans movement and a TV celebrity. Can you not see that this is pure homophobia? Please take a moment to reflect. What you have been told is not true.

In 2015, the UK equivalent of the HRC, Stonewall UK, which had always advocated for gays and lesbians, acquired a new CEO, Ruth Hunt. It also acquired a sizeable grant from the Arcus Foundation. It consulted with a large number of transgender individuals, and against lesbian opposition (and reneging on its promises to the contrary), became an LGBT organization – like GLAAD and the HRC. Soon there was no one left to advocate for people with same-sex sexual orientation. Everything was about self-defined “gender identity” – as if people's sexual orientation is not about bodies at all. Did none of these people have actual sex? Did they all live online?

I met Kate Harris in 2019 and we tried to talk to Stonewall UK, to get them to understand that many – not all! -- gays and lesbians were feeling abandoned. They refused to talk to us. Stonewall and all other groups promoted the view that bodies shouldn't matter: “there is no such thing as male and female bodies,” a Stonewall representative said at the Allison Bailey Tribunal hearing in 2022. All that matters, in their view, is what is in your mind – your “gender identity.”

Well I have a body and a sex and I do not have a “gender identity.”

I am a lesbian and I am attracted to other women – that means adult human females, not people who “identify” as female.

Sexual orientation is about sex, not “gender identity.”

In fact, “gender identity doctrine,” as I call it, is homophobic and sexist.

Since Stonewall UK wouldn't talk to us, Kate Harris and I founded LGB Alliance on October 22nd, 2019. Our aim was to revive the gay rights movement – and against the odds, I believe we are doing so. Many similar groups have since formed around the world from Brazil to Taiwan, including LGB Alliance USA @LGBAlliance_USA. I suggest you get to know it.

I oppose CO HB25-1312 in line with concerns expressed by the LGB Courage Coalition, led by the courageous Jamie Reed, about this bill. I urge you to refer to their detailed concerns.

I also support R. J. Preece's and Jeff Cleghorn's call for an independent state investigation into the entire apparatus of the (national and international) transqueer lobby as it impacts the State of Colorado, including its impact on elected officials, to include organizations advocating gender / queer ideology and the parallel, profitable trans medical market. This also includes the marketing support services in schools, libraries, government, businesses, and affecting its citizens.

I'm trying to imagine how it sounds to the Democrats reading this when you hear Jeff Cleghorn say: "Please stop this madness right in its tracks." I bet it sounds reactionary to you. It really isn't. Ironically, it's quite the opposite. For those of us who know that child safeguarding should be a non-partisan issue, it was a mixed blessing when Donald Trump issued an Executive Order to ban pediatric gender medicine ("gender affirming care"). Although I was glad it was happening, the political polarization that has defined this issue in the US has done immense harm. So many liberals don't dare to voice their concerns for fear of being labeled MAGA bigots. To those supporting this bill, you literally are harming young LGB teens and proto-gay kids with this legislation. Please be brave, like the wonderful Democrat Jonah Wheeler of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. You will be shouted at – but surely you went into public office to do the right thing, even when it is hard?

Sometimes the left gets things wrong: in the 1920s, progressives such as Irving Fisher and Woodrow Wilson supported eugenics. Sometimes the medical profession gets things wrong: in 1949, Dr Egas Moniz was awarded a Nobel prize for inventing lobotomy. Pediatric gender medicine ("gender-affirming care") is a rare case in which both the left and the medical profession have gotten things wrong. I urge you to reflect, to listen to those opposing CO HB25-1312, and to course correct immediately.

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Also please watch my talk at the Genspect Conference in Lisbon, 27 September 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2auAUDjYV5E>

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We hold an annual conference. We have been often harassed, including violent threats, by radical trans activists. Please refer to the 2022 keynote address by Kate Harris and me, LGB Alliance co-founders. 32 min.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwTMMA92uew>



Above, like-minded people, please share our relief and joy; a photo of co-founder Kate Harris and Kate Barker-Mawjee CEO of LGB Alliance, third and fourth from the left, in the following Associated Press article, reported in hundreds of left-oriented media outlets across the United States and beyond. There is hope we will escape the madness.

If legacy media didn't effectively have a gag order on our concerns, or demonize us since 2021, left-leaning politicians of this committee would have heard LGB concerns over the past four years in great detail.

<https://apnews.com/article/uk-supreme-court-decision-definition-woman-scotland-1a61bea0c26c13cf34864f696a1a5f0c>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2auAUDjYV5E>

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We hold an annual conference. We have been often harassed, including violent threats, by radical trans activists. Please refer to the 2022 keynote address by Kate Harris and me, LGB Alliance co-founders. 32 min.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwTMMA92uew>



Above, like-minded people, please share our relief and joy; a photo of co-founder Kate Harris and Kate Barker-Mawjee CEO of LGB Alliance, third and fourth from the left, in the following Associated Press article, reported in hundreds of left-oriented media outlets across the United States and beyond. There is hope we will escape the madness.

If legacy media didn't effectively have a gag order on our concerns, or demonize us since 2021, left-leaning politicians of this committee would have heard LGB concerns over the past four years in great detail.

<https://apnews.com/article/uk-supreme-court-decision-definition-woman-scotland-1a61bea0c26c13cf34864f696a1a5f0c>

HB 25-1312 - Transgender, “Kelly Loving Act”

My name is Nicholas Villarreal and I’m a father of 5 children and I have lived in Colorado for more than 20 years. I am here to testify against HB 25-1312. What is a man? What is a woman? It is now common in our day to treat these terms as nothing more than an expression of one’s identity. *I identify as a man. I identify as a woman.* But what are such individuals identifying as? What does it mean to be a man? What does it mean to be a woman?

Many of you are fathers, mothers, grandmothers, and grandfathers who love your children and grandchildren. Think back to the day when these little ones were born to you. What joy did you have as this little human entered and greeted you in the outside world. Perhaps you knew before your child was born that he or she would be a boy or a girl. Or maybe you waited to be surprised. You also picked out boy names and girl names and started calling your children by these names as soon as you found out — whether before or after birth. This is a common and natural experience shared by mothers and fathers throughout time and throughout the world.

What this bill proposes is that we as parents, teachers, business owners, and citizens should be compelled by force of law to lie to one another every time we speak with, talk about, or write about someone who feels they were born as the wrong sex and wishes to be called by a different name or by different pronouns. In short, we are being told to deny our senses, to deny nature, and to deny reason.

Mothers and fathers would be accused of “Coercive control” if they call *their* child by the name they gave to *their* child when he or she was born. The current definition of “Coercive control” includes things such as isolation from friends and family, threats of physical violence, destruction of property, forced participation in criminal activity or child abuse. And if this bill passes we can add to that list, “calling your child by the name you gave them when they want to be called by a different name.”

The importance of recognizing the distinctions between men and women, boys and girls is something that every society has understood until now. It is deeply embedded in our languages, our customs, and our religious beliefs. There is beauty, order, and goodness in these differences. A society that proposes we deny these distinctions is a society that proposes a world without color. A grey, dull, senseless world which lacks depth, understanding, purpose, and value. The biological reality of sex is deeply connected to our identity as men and women. We can make reasonable generalizations about what men do and what

women do, what men are like and what women are like *because* we were each created differently. And no amount of legislation denying our fundamental nature as human beings can overturn that reality. Yet that is exactly what this bill attempts to do along with punishing by force of law those who recognize these basic differences.

Thank you for your time and once again I appeal to you as mothers, fathers, grandfathers, and grandmothers that you would vote in favor of truth, reason, and goodness.

My name is Paula O'Brien and I represent myself against the entire hb25-1312

One of the great Victor Hugo's lesser known books written around the 1870's is called The Man Who Laughs. And for a century and a half, many scholars rejected even the possibility of something so extreme as the existence of a real group of child mutilators Hugo described. Yet, here we sit with our neighbors ignoring the significant consequences of "gender affirming procedures," with elected officials attempting to prevent discussion from even seeing the light of day. I find the precedence of controlling parents' speech or forcing parents to promote these practices to be reprehensible.

People who identify as any gender have freedom TODAY to speak any claim, true or otherwise, yet this bill is part of a multi-bill effort to withdraw that right from a very specific group of citizens and bolsters the modern day Compranchicos. Consequences in the bill are extreme, and the broader legislative efforts create financial consequences for parents, businesses and churches, and drive social and family divides by forcing it into the enshrined Anti-discrimination Act, having simultaneously increased its statutory fines and penalties in the earlier bill 25-1239.

The same people who argue the right to murder *their* offspring seem so driven to control other people's children. But it reveals their intentions-not of care, but of power.

Our moral responsibility and authority as parents is gifted to us by our Creator. God has already given us all things that pertain to life and godliness; he created us in his image as part of the one human race, given us his Word, and our family doesn't need or want the values proposed here.

Legislators, you stand on the shoulders of God-worshipping men and women, and you do not have the authority bought with the blood of *our* ancestors to dictate parents' speech, or remove citizen's rights to protect their children's bodies or raise them in Faith, not in the State, but in God. Vote No on HB25-1312.

Position Statement Opposing HB25-1312: Legal Protections for Transgender Children

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB25-1312, titled "*Legal Protections for Transgender Children*." While I believe in the importance of treating every child with compassion, respect, and dignity, I have serious concerns about the unintended consequences of this legislation for families, schools, and the broader society.

1. Erosion of Parental Rights

This bill will place the state in a position to override the rights of parents in matters involving their children's health and identity. Parents are the primary caregivers and decision-makers in their children's lives, and they should be trusted to guide their children through complex issues, including questions around gender identity. HB25-1312 risks undermining this essential family relationship by prioritizing legal frameworks over parental involvement.

- This bill is an attempt to undermine God given authority from the parents to their children. Parents are the only ones that have the ability and motivation to love their children the most. A State is incapable of love since it is not a person.

2. Long-Term Health and Medical Concerns

There is ongoing debate within the medical community regarding the long-term effects of gender-affirming treatments, especially when administered to minors. Medical decisions involving irreversible procedures should be approached with caution. By granting sweeping legal protections without fully acknowledging these risks, the bill may encourage premature medical interventions that some individuals may later regret.

- Adolescent's brains (cognitive ability) are not yet developed until their mid to late 20's and therefore should not be encouraged to make life altering decisions by the State. This bill is more of a "Hate" Act since it aims at taking advantage of young people's inability to discern what is healthy for them.

3. Impact on Schools and Educators

Educators and school administrators are already facing pressure to navigate complex social and cultural issues. HB25-1312 will impose additional legal and administrative burdens on schools, requiring them to adopt policies that may conflict with the beliefs or values of local communities or staff members. There should be room for discussion and flexibility, not one-size-fits-all mandates.

- This bill is intended to be "heavy handed" on a specific agenda and will not be received well by schools and other's caring for our nation's youth. This bill only brings confusion to all involved. This bill will result in placing our youth in harms

way in reference to the need to keep biological male and females separated in restrooms and locker rooms.

- For Example: HB 25-1312 **Sections 7 and 8** , *although the bill does not prevent a public entity from using an individual's legal name when required to do so by law to ensure that the identity of the individual can be verified or that other information pertaining to the individual that is needed for legal or other legitimate public purposes can be obtained.*
- Additional confusion will result while trying to maintain accurate and legal medical records for a transgender person. Will the medical personnel involved with a transgender person face penalties while discussing biological gender needs instead of preferred gender identity wants. This all adds unnecessary confusion for all involved.

4. Religious and Moral Liberties

A pluralistic society must respect differing worldviews. This bill may force individuals, religious organizations, and faith-based institutions to affirm or participate in practices that contradict their deeply held convictions. Legal protections for one group should not come at the cost of others' constitutional rights to free expression and religious freedom.

- This Bill is setting an example of forcing unconstitutional laws on the American people to only satisfy a very few.
- Galatians 6:7-8 "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

5. Risk of Legal Overreach and Vagueness

The language of the bill, if too broad or ill-defined, could open the door to legal action against professionals and institutions trying to act in good faith. Clarity in the law is essential, especially when it governs areas as sensitive as child development, healthcare, and education.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the broader implications of HB25-1312. Protecting children includes safeguarding their long-term health, supporting parental rights, and ensuring that laws reflect a balanced respect for all citizens' freedoms and responsibilities.

Sincerely,
Drew Kennedy
Colorado Springs, CO District 5

April 28, 2025

Attn: Senate Judiciary Committee

Hearing Scheduled: April 30, 2025 1:30pm

Re: NO on HB25-1312

As a fourth-generation-Coloradan and mother to three extraordinary young men, I am appalled and infuriated that our state government is even considering HB25-1312. It's an egregious violation of our parental rights as well as 1st Amendment rights. To not only compel our speech, but to undermine our authority as parents is unacceptable.

I wholeheartedly ask you to vote AGAINST HB25-1312 for the following reasons:

- Denying Parental Rights. This bill threatens parental authority by considering parents who call a child by their birth name and pronoun that match their sex as unfit in custody disputes. It also bars Colorado courts from honoring other states' laws that protect children from harmful "gender transitions"—trampling parental rights and ignoring state sovereignty in the process.
- Violating Free Speech. This bill dangerously defines "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as discrimination under Colorado law—effectively criminalizing speech. Courts have already ruled: the government can't compel speech.
- Harming Vulnerable Children. Up to 98% of children with gender confusion outgrow it and accept their biological sex. But "gender affirming care" pushes them toward castration, sterilization, and permanent sexual dysfunction. After surgery, suicide rates skyrocket—nearly 20 times higher than average. Social transitions and puberty blockers often lock kids into a lifetime of medical dependency. Tearing them from loving, fit families based on bogus abuse claims only puts them at greater risk.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Nelson
303-946-5544
lnelson@postpro.net
Strasburg, CO 80136

Dear Senators,

Greetings! First, I thank you for the work you do to represent the people of our beautiful state. We recognize that serving as a legislator is a big responsibility which entails a tremendous amount of time and labor. Thank you.

My friends and I are concerned about the content and implications of HB 25-1312. I am sure you have received mail from other concerned citizens. While there are many aspects of the bill that warrant concern, it is Sections 7 and 8 that clearly have the potential to create a situation of greatest disruption to the public good. As you know, those sections criminalize “deadnaming” and “misgendering.” By doing so, the bill, in actual effect, establishes compelled speech as part of the law.

The recently fashionable idea that human gender is a mere social construct capable of being altered at will by a given individual is both presently and historically debatable. HB 25-1312 presupposes this debate is foreclosed—even nonexistent. And yet, as all of us who observe the cultural conversation know well, such is not the case. In fact, the notion of gender-as-mere-social construct--a notion stemming from the writings of Judith Butler and others--is a very recent innovation. And, as the most rudimentary survey of our culture’s history demonstrates, this notion runs directly against the grain of centuries of deeply considered understandings of what it means to be a human person. HB 25-1312 advocates an ideological and reductionist understanding of the realities of human gender and its associated historical conversation.

Furthermore, even a brief appraisal of American court decisions regarding compelled speech makes patently clear that, rather than considering the legal precedents set by such cases in our country, this bill emphatically disregards them. In fact, HB 25-1312 actually promotes unconstitutional restrictions on the freedom of speech, and the freedom of thought it presupposes. This is to say: this bill militates against rather than actively supports the constitutionally protected rights of all Americans. As Chief Justice Roberts’ 2006 opinion in *Rumsfeld v. Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights* clearly outlines, the freedom of speech established in the First Amendment “prohibits the government from telling people what they must say.” HB 25-1312 tells the citizens of Colorado what they must and must not say. In so doing, this bill proclaims its unconstitutionality.

As one of your constituents, I ask you not to vote for the passage of this ill-considered and controversial bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew Turnbull, Ph.D.
Lakewood, CO

Letter regarding HB25-1312

My name is Teresa Wadleigh.

Countries throughout the world have laws that distinguish the rights and privileges of minors from those of adults.

Why? Because minors often make **poor decisions** or are **victimized** because they do not have the knowledge, experience, and wisdom to understand the full implications of those decisions, nor the knowledge and resources to **avoid being exploited**.

That's why we **limit access, shield, and protect** children from things that could be detrimental to themselves or others. Things like operating a vehicle or machinery, getting married, signing legal contracts, liability for debts or crime, serving as a juror, changing their name or citizenship, working 12-hour shifts. Children **aren't equipped** for those responsibilities.

Neuroscientists tell us that the human brain **isn't fully developed until at least age 25**. The frontal lobe, which is responsible for functions such as **decision-making, planning, and inhibitory control**, is the **last to develop**.

Children change their minds frequently as they grow. Ask them what they want to be or where they want to live when they grow up. Ask them to name their favorite class in school. (It's probably recess.) They don't have the **information or experience** to answer those questions **wisely**.

Yet this bill would place a child in charge of determining his or her gender preference; allow that child to obtain **permanent, life-altering medical and surgical changes**; require schools, businesses, and even medical professionals to affirm the child's decision (**risking legal action if they refuse**); *and* **deny parents** the **right** to question, provide correction, direction, and support. This bill seeks **to invade the privacy and sanctity of the home and family**.

Bill 1312 is **glaringly wrong** because it **denies protection to vulnerable children**. It is a **violation of our rights** because it would **deny freedom of speech and freedom of religion** for **parents, medical professionals, and educational and business staff**.

Please VOTE "NO" on this bill.

Teresa Wadleigh, Cheraw, CO, HD47, SD35+



April 30, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Katharine Ebersberger and I am writing today on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Colorado to urge you to **amend HB25-1312, Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals**. LWVCO has over 2200 members in 20 local Leagues spanning the state.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado supports governmental protections to ensure that all residents of Colorado have an equal opportunity to thrive and live authentically. This bill takes a significant step toward ensuring the rights, dignity, and safety of transgender individuals across our state.

However, we believe that amendments are necessary to strengthen legal protections by making name change records confidential, by making it easier to update family documents, and by clarifying the process for updating gender markers on identification documents.

We are also concerned about possible unintended consequences of the custody and parenting provisions of HB1312, the shield law protections, and the deadnaming and misgendering provisions. We ask that these provisions be removed and considered more fully in the interim.

Colorado has long been a leader in advancing equality. Passing HB25-1312 with the above amendments would reinforce our state's commitment to protecting its residents from discrimination and harm. We urge you to **amend HB1312 and pass it** to stand with transgender Coloradans in ensuring their rights are upheld.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to serving our community. We look forward to your leadership in making Colorado a more inclusive and just place for all.

Sincerely,

Katharine Ebersberger

Legislative Action Group
League of Women Voters of Colorado
110 16th Street Mall, Suite 1326
Denver, CO 80202
303-817-8314

Matt Buckner
Castle Rock, Colorado
April 28th, 2025

To the Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB25-1312

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Matt Buckner, a parent and resident of Castle Rock, Colorado. I respectfully oppose HB25-1312, "Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals." While I support treating every person with dignity and respect, this bill crosses important constitutional and moral boundaries. It prioritizes one perspective at the expense of parental rights, free speech, freedom of conscience, and the vital principle of true mutual respect in a diverse society.

As a Christian, my faith teaches me that every individual is created with inherent worth and deserves compassion. It also teaches me that truth is not subjective and that affirming reality, including biological reality, is a moral responsibility. HB25-1312 places the force of law behind one set of beliefs and punishes those who, in good faith, live and raise their children according to different convictions. Respecting differences does not require erasing conscience.

Key Concerns (Grounded Directly in the Bill Text):

1. Parenting Redefined as "Coercive Control"

Section 2 of HB25-1312 amends C.R.S. §14-10-124 to classify "deadnaming" or "misgendering" a child as forms of "coercive control." Loving parents, exercising sincere, deeply held convictions, often informed by religious faith, could be punished during custody disputes for how they guide their own children. This is a dangerous expansion of government power into the sacred space of family life.

2. Compelled and Penalized Speech

Section 9 (C.R.S. §24-34-601) makes it unlawful to publish materials that "deadname" or "misgender" an individual with "specific intent." Although framed with an intent requirement, the subjective nature of enforcement threatens free speech and freedom of conscience. Protections long established in *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette* (1943), where the Court rightly held that the government cannot compel citizens to affirm state-approved messages.

3. Small Business Vulnerability

Expanding anti-discrimination protections into subjective areas of speech creates enormous legal risk for small businesses and nonprofits. Many of which are operated by people of faith. *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* (2018) illustrated how unclear ideological standards can devastate ordinary people simply trying to live out their beliefs with integrity.

4. Loss of Local Control in Schools

Sections 5 and 6 eliminate gender-based distinctions in school dress codes, mandating gender-neutral policies across all public education settings. While seeking inclusion, these policies override the values of parents, educators, and communities, creating confusion and litigation as seen in *Grimm v. Gloucester County School Board* (2020). Families of faith and those without faith alike deserve to have a voice in shaping their children's environment.

5. Interstate Legal Conflict

Section 3 forbids Colorado courts from recognizing lawful custody rulings from other states related to gender-affirming care. This undermines the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the U.S. Constitution, threatens national legal cooperation, and places ideological agreement above stable family protections.

Balanced Perspective:

Every person deserves compassion and protection from unjust discrimination. But compassion does not require conformity. True tolerance allows for sincere disagreement, respects the rights of conscience, and makes space for diverse viewpoints.

HB25-1312, though well-intended, imposes a particular ideology and punishes those who live by different convictions. My Christian faith teaches me to love my neighbor, but it also teaches me that love does not require abandoning truth. The freedoms protected by our Constitution including speech, religion, association, parenting are meant to shield all individuals, not just those holding the majority view.

As *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969) reminds us, it is precisely the defense of unpopular or minority viewpoints that preserves freedom for all.

Conclusion:

HB25-1312 does not foster unity; it mandates uniformity. It weaponizes subjective standards, penalizes good-faith parenting, chills free speech, and destabilizes constitutional cooperation among states. In trying to protect one group, it unjustly tramples the freedoms of others including people of faith, families of conscience, and small businesses across Colorado.

We can and should protect dignity, but not by coercing belief or parenting from the top down.

I urge you to reject HB25-1312. Uphold fairness. Uphold freedom. Uphold the sacred right of every Coloradan to live, speak, and parent according to their conscience.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Buckner
Castle Rock, Colorado

April 29, 2025

Members of the Senate,

I am writing not only as a concerned parent, but a medical professional who is against HB25-1312. Children are not mentally capable of making life and body-altering decisions due to their brains not being completely developed. Specifically, the prefrontal cortex. This portion of the brain does not finish developing until a person's mid-to-late 20s. It is responsible for mental processes such as executive function (planning, decision-making, and impulse control) and emotional control. In adolescents in particular, this causes them to participate in more risk-taking behaviors, handle stress poorly, and have increased susceptibility to depression and anxiety (National Institute of Mental Health, 2023). Any of these can cause an adolescent to desire to be someone else, leading to gender dysphoria (GD).

GD is a mental health disorder that requires psychiatric support (Garg, Elshimy, & Marwaha, 2023). It is NOT a physical disorder that requires permanently mutilating and changing a child's endocrine system by administering unnecessary hormones. Parents should not be punished for attempting to obtain psychiatric support for their child. Colorado does not allow children to purchase alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, or guns, or even vote due to being under a certain age. So how is it logical to allow them to dictate to their parents what unnecessary medical procedures and prescriptions they desire? This decision needs to be postponed until they are mentally capable of making such permanent choices (i.e. - their prefrontal cortex has had enough time to develop). This bill does not protect our children. It strips away parental rights, circumvents child protection laws, imposes gender ideologies on everyone, and attacks free speech and religious liberty. This bill targets a minority and does not represent what majority of Colorado parents' desire. Please consider how much harm and family separation this bill would bring upon innocent children, and vote AGAINST it.

Sincerely,

Ashley Ruiz, Certified Family Nurse Practitioner

References:

National Institute of Mental Health. (2023). *The Teen Brain: 7 Things to Know*.
<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/the-teen-brain-7-things-to-know>

Garg, G., Elshimy, G., & Marwaha, R. (2023, July 11). Gender Dysphoria.
National Library of Medicine. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK532313/>

Colorado Senators,

We stand in unwavering support of House Bill 25-1312, the Kelly Loving Act. This critical legislation demands equity, dignity, and safety for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in Colorado – including the many students we represent who rely on being protected to thrive in their education and live happy lives.

The Kelly Loving Act honors the legacy of Kelly Loving, a transgender woman and advocate whose life was tragically cut short in the Club Q shooting. Her memory calls us to action, demanding that we confront the systemic discrimination and violence all too familiar to transgender people. This bill provides essential safeguards, such as:

- Protecting youth and families by prohibiting the removal of children from homes simply for accessing gender-affirming care and recognizing deadnaming and misgendering as coercive control in custody cases.
- Ensuring inclusive educational environments by requiring schools to respect chosen names and adopt gender-neutral dress codes.
- Combating discrimination by explicitly defining deadnaming and misgendering as discriminatory practices.

For our trans students, this bill is a lifeline. It ensures they can't be deadnamed in courtrooms, classrooms, or places of employment and it protects parents who support their children's healthcare. These are not abstract rights – they are survival.

Our university community is home to a vibrant collection of identities and transgender students are an integral part of that community. When their rights are undermined, their ability to learn, work, and participate fully in campus life is compromised. This bill is a small step towards an equitable future for trans people.

We urge you to pass the Kelly Loving Act – not just as a stand against transphobia, but as a declaration that Colorado will resist the federal government's campaign to strip rights from marginalized people. Our students are watching. History is watching.

Thank you,

Student Government: The Student Advocacy Council
Metropolitan State University of Denver

Approved testimony by majority vote on April 4th, 2025

April 29, 2025

Dear Senator,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 25-1312. As a concerned father, I believe this bill undermines parental rights and religious freedoms, and I urge you to vote against it.

Recent actions in Colorado have raised concerns among people of faith, particularly those who adhere to traditional biblical teachings on marriage, family, and sexuality. Although some of these actions have been overturned by courts, HB 25-1312 seeks to codify these measures into law.

My specific concerns with the bill are as follows:

- **Criminalizing Parental Rights:** The bill would penalize parents for referring to their child by their birth name if the child wishes to be called by a different name due to confusion or rejection of their biological sex.
- **Expansion of "Coercive Control":** The bill expands the definition of "coercive control" to include "deadnaming" or "misgendering," categorizing these actions as abusive.
- **Discrimination Laws:** It introduces "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as discriminatory practices under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act.
- **Religious Freedom Violations:** The bill permits the state to consider parents' religious beliefs regarding gender in custody decisions, infringing upon First Amendment protections for free speech and religious liberty.
- **School Uniform Policies:** It mandates that schools accommodate non-gendered uniforms and allow students to choose uniforms based on perceived gender identity, without parental consent.
- **Impact on Child Custody:** The bill allows courts to consider "deadnaming" and "misgendering" in child custody cases, further eroding parental authority.

These provisions not only infringe upon the rights of individuals of faith but also undermine basic freedoms such as free speech and parental authority. Moreover, the bill risks creating unnecessary conflicts between church and state, which should be unacceptable to any public servant.

Additionally, there are well-established legal principles affirming parental authority:

- The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized the fundamental role of parents in directing the care, custody, and control of their children. In *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (406 U.S. 205, 1972), the Court held that parental rights are "an enduring American tradition."
- Colorado law, in Statute 13-22-107(III), affirms that parents have the fundamental right and responsibility to make decisions in the best interest of their children.

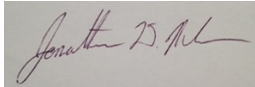
While I support efforts to assist transgender youth, medical research does not justify the measures proposed in HB 25-1312. Studies have shown significant risks associated with gender transition treatments, including infertility (Chen et al., 2017), cognitive decline (Baxendale,

2024), cardiac issues (Nota et al., 2019), weaker bones (Biggs, 2021), and no greater efficacy than placebo (Gosling, 2022).

I respectfully urge you to reject this legislation, as it does not reflect the values of the majority of Coloradans. Colorado should not be the place where extremist agendas take root at the expense of families and individuals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jonathan D. Newsham", is displayed within a rectangular frame.

Jonathan D. Newsham

Jennifer Jeffery
Longmont, Co, 80501
JayBoulder@gmail.com
April 30, 2025

Senate Judiciary Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E Colfax Ave
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Opposition to HB25-1312 – “Kelly Loving Act”

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I’m writing today to express my concerns about House Bill 25-1312, also known as the “Kelly Loving Act.” I appreciate the intentions behind this bill—protecting the dignity and well-being of transgender individuals, particularly youth. But HB25-1312, as currently written, crosses a line no government in a free society should ever cross: it forces compliance to a belief system with threat of punishment.

We must distinguish between protecting people from harm and requiring others to express beliefs they may not hold. This bill shifts from safeguarding civil rights into mandating personal speech and belief, especially in the highly sensitive arenas of parenting, education, and public discourse.

By potentially labeling a parent “coercive” in a custody case for misnaming or misgendering their child—even if done from confusion or personal struggle rather than hostility—this bill criminalizes disagreement. It punishes not just actions, but thoughts that diverge from a particular ideology.

It also mandates that schools and public agencies use chosen names and pronouns at all times, regardless of context or personal conscience. In doing so, the bill effectively elevates one worldview over all others, with dissent treated as dangerous or hateful.

To highlight the risk: Imagine if a conservative legislature passed a law requiring every public school teacher or government employee to refer to Donald Trump by his new pronoun, “king” — and made refusal to use that language a punishable offense. There would be instant outrage,

and rightly so. Partly because of who it involves, but also because forced speech is always authoritarian, no matter the ideology behind it.

I believe in a diverse and inclusive society—but a truly inclusive culture must also make room for diversity of thought. That means allowing people to speak freely, even when their views challenge the current cultural norms. As one thinker said, and I agree:

“Forced speech is forced thought, and forced thought is the seed of tyranny.”

We do not need to sacrifice free expression in order to protect trans rights. We can have both. But when legislation begins to mandate language, to tell people what they must say in order to keep custody of their children or work in public institutions, we are no longer empowering the marginalized—we are compelling belief.

I urge you to reconsider this bill. Laws should protect people from violence and discrimination—not require citizens to affirm a specific belief system in order to avoid punishment. We must defend the sacred right of all people to speak truth as they see it, even when it conflicts with the current culture.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to civil liberties.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L Jeffery

My Colorado Representatives,

My name is Alyssa Beck. I am writing to express my deep grief and strong opposition to CO HB25-1312, recently passed by the Colorado House. This bill represents an alarming violation of fundamental parental rights, free speech, child protection, and the mission of education itself.

Denying Parental Rights

CO HB25-1312 empowers the state to override parents who lovingly guide their children according to biological reality. Parents, not the state, are entrusted by God with the upbringing of their children (Proverbs 22:6). Stripping parents of custody for affirming truth is a grievous injustice and an assault on family sovereignty.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."
(Proverbs 22:6, ESV) This verse highlights the responsibility of parents to guide and shape their children's moral and spiritual formation from an early age. Please do not take this away from the ones responsible to steward these spiritual beings!

Violating Free Speech

This bill criminalizes truth-telling by labeling "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as discriminatory acts. Yet God calls us to speak truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), not to affirm confusion. Compelling individuals to use language contrary to their conscience and faith violates the core American right to free expression and religious liberty.

Harming Vulnerable Children

The so-called "gender-affirming care" endorsed by this bill leads vulnerable children down a path of irreversible harm: sterilization, lifelong medical dependence, and profound mental anguish. Jesus warned, "If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matthew 18:6). Policies that endanger children's lives and well-being must be opposed without hesitation. We do not have God-given authority to make these decisions for our children, nor do we have sufficient research to support these policies.

Mandating Indoctrination Over Education

This bill also compels schools to prioritize ideological conformity over education. Yet Scripture says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7). Schools should be places of learning and wisdom, not political indoctrination that undermines objective truth.

I urge you to reject this dangerous and destructive bill. Please stand firm for parental rights, free speech, child protection, and educational integrity. I ask you to act courageously to defend truth and to protect Colorado's families and children.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Beck
805 Dudley St.
Lakewood, CO
aclairebeck@gmail.com
651-324-2882

Mark Chilson

4801 East Ninth Avenue No. 206 | Denver, CO 80220 | (303) 335 - 7222 | Maercus1@protonmail.com

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

RE: Written Testimony Submitted by Colorado Constituent Against **HB25-1312**

Dear Colorado State Senators:

No parameter is more indicative of a future filled with disaster than that a child come under the jurisdiction of Family Court or Juvenile Court. In every dimension, the life of the child becomes worse than before the interaction. Naturally the Courts wish to further extend their grip over the life of the children they harm. Those who derive their livelihood from the administrative exploitation of children however sing a different tune. Sadly it is this siren song to which the most gullible of legislators have paid heed.

Child Protective Services (CPS) is a self-serving agency possessing direct power surpassing those of the Police. By abusing children in its care it has successfully created a cycle of dysfunction that justifies its ever more monumental budgetary requests.

This bill is another in the same vein. It seeks to place CPS as the arbiter of gender confusion matters of each minor in the state of Colorado.

Representative Lorena Garcia and Representative Rebekah Stewart will be forever associated in parents' minds as being the two women who sought a permanent bifurcation of parent from child in an American state—an effort that will be overturned by legislation or by referendum.

Each Senator now signing off on this monstrosity will have his and her name forever recorded with this effort as well.

Educators statewide have succeeded in inculcating gender confusion in thousands of Colorado minors. These will be the same 'first responders' then first making referrals to CPS in order that children might be removed from the home.

The scam runs thus: Declare parents unfit, claim kinship placement impossible, then reap massive windfalls in reimbursements from the Federal government under Title IV-E.

It will be clear to posterity that Senators voted for this bill out of a combination of power lust and greed. All claims to nobler motives will go by the wayside.

Those Colorado Senators voting in support are about to make their names infamous nationwide.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Chilson

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Respectfully submitted,

Mark Chilson

Preece, R. J.
Re: CO HB 25-1312
April 28, 2025

I am an independent policy and media consultant, a gay man, and a classic liberal for over 40 years. I even supported Mondale back in the day.

I oppose CO HB 25-1312 in line with the positions of Dr. Travis Morrell, Do No Harm, LGB Courage Coalition, and Moms 4 Liberty about this bill. There's no point in explaining further to morally lost, and extremely dangerous, far left authoritarians.

As in Connecticut, I call for an independent state investigation into the entire apparatus of the (national and international) transqueer lobby as it impacts the State of Colorado, including its impact on elected officials, to include organizations advocating gender / queer ideology and the parallel, profitable trans medical market. This also includes the marketing support services in schools, libraries, government, businesses, and actions, as shown in CO 25-1312, affecting its citizens.

Today's Democrats have been misled by activists infiltrating all sorts of advisory and decision-making positions, just like people were regarding the earlier opioids scandal. This is different: profitable medical with an ideology. Complicit Dems need to speak out NOW; your voting record is your history and your legacy for eternity. The information is out there, and there are no excuses.

In closing, I deeply apologize to Republicans on the committee for ever supporting what have become today's morally bankrupt Democrats. Until 2021, I never ever imagined their power would lead to this. I am completely with you, and may good forces be with you.

R. J. Preece
Independent policy consultant and since 2022 a gay rights activist (that means LGB, not toxic, destructive LGBTQ for TQ advancement purposes)

Please refer to:

Four National Figures [Amaya Price, Cleghorn, Preece, Rebstock] Call For Independent State Investigation Into Transqueer Matters In Connecticut

This includes a link to a video of my testimony to the CT legislature on March 7, 2025.

(March 10, 2025)

<https://connecticutcentinal.com/trans-gender-identity-queer/>

MEMORANDUM OF CLARITY, CONCERN & COMMON SENSE

Re: Senate Bill 24-1312 – Family Law Reform / Coercive Control

From: Marla Fatima Fernandez, Certified Paralegal, Mediator, and Candidate for Governor of Colorado

Date: April 29, 2025

To: Colorado State Senate – Judiciary Committee

Opening Statement:

Let me be clear. I'm not here to play party ping-pong. I'm not red, I'm not blue—I'm Cuban from Miami and fed up with broken systems. I've read this bill. Twice. In English and in real life. It's messy. It's rushed. It's a patchwork quilt of good intentions, bad definitions, and political overreach.

But it's not hopeless. It's amendable.

Position Summary:

SB24-1312 aims to address coercive control in family dynamics. That's noble. That's needed. But this bill, as written, opens Pandora's box. It risks redefining conflict as abuse, emotion as danger, and structure as threat. It will criminalize parenting for some, while failing to protect others who are truly in danger.

As a mediator, I've sat between broken marriages and broken spirits. As a legal assistant, I've watched both victims and good parents lose everything—because policy got weaponized. We don't need another weapon. We need wisdom.

Legal and Practical Concerns:

1. Definition Creep – The bill uses vague terms that could be broadly interpreted. If “coercive control” includes tone, structure, or values-based parenting, every high-conflict parent could be labeled an abuser.

→ Recommendation: Narrow definitions. Anchor them to intent, pattern, and provable harm—not disagreement or discipline.

1. Religious and Cultural Bias – Immigrant, traditional, and faith-based families will be disproportionately affected. Cuban moms? Black grandmothers? Orthodox dads? They set curfews and demand order. That's not abuse—that's culture.

→ Recommendation: Require context and cultural competency in all family court evaluations.

1. Due Process and Family Integrity – This bill shifts the burden of proof and gives too much discretionary power to evaluators and investigators, with little judicial oversight.

→ Recommendation: Amend to preserve parental rights, protect evidence standards, and prevent misuse in custody litigation.

1. Parental Alienation & False Allegations – We’ve seen it. One party files a claim of coercive control to manipulate the process. This bill, unamended, will be a new tool in the alienation toolbox.

→ Recommendation: Add guardrails to prevent false claims and penalize misuse.

Conclusion:

I’m not taking sides. I’m standing in the middle of the courtroom, the classroom, and the kitchen table. I’ve lived this law on paper, in practice, and as a mother. This bill will pass—fine. But let it pass with amendments. With sanity. With nuance.

Fix it before it fractures families.

Let’s not create another weapon. Let’s create wisdom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marla Fatima Fernandez

Certified Paralegal | Certified Mediator | Mother | Candidate for Governor

<https://FatimaFernandezForColorado.com>



Vada



"I respectfully oppose HB25-1312, as I believe it represents an overreach of governmental authority and imposes burdensome regulations that may have unintended consequences for families, small businesses, and local communities. Legislation of this scope requires greater transparency, public input, and careful consideration of its long-term impacts. I urge lawmakers to prioritize policies that support individual rights, economic freedom, and support parental authority, rather than expanding state control in ways that risk undermining these fundamental values. Specifically, this bill will undermine parental rights, circumvent child protection laws, impose gender ideology in schools, and attack free speech and religious liberty."



RCS message



Senator,

I am an American, a Christian, and a parent.

As an American, Christian, and parent, I am deeply troubled by HB25-1312, informally called the "Kelly Loving Act". As I understand it, under this legislation, a parent using their child's birth name, or biologically accurate pronouns, could be legally classified as "coercive control," potentially resulting in a fine, jail time, and/or the loss of custody rights.

If this is true, it poses a serious threat to me as an American, a Christian, and a parent, along with all of my fellow Americans in Colorado to whom it pertains. And we need your help. Because if HB25-1312 is as I understand it to be, it will advance a change in good Coloradan parents' ability to care for their children, in a way that is decisively unamerican, poses an unconstitutional threat to the religious liberty that so many citizens of our state hold dear, and is scientifically reckless and dishonest.

HB25-1312 is unamerican in that it is a categorical attack on freedom. If you ask a non-American what makes America America, one of the most common things you hear is "freedom". It's at the center of who we are. And certainly, good Americans don't want freedom to be abused - we shouldn't be "free" to commit crimes, to harm others, or to break the law. But good Americans should be free to live according to their values within the bounds of the Constitution that has guided this great, young experiment of a nation for nearly 250 years. Under HB25-1312, the freedom of Coloradan parents to live & lead their children according to their virtuous values is under attack. As an American, HB25-1312 deeply troubles me.

HB25-1312 is also unconstitutional in that it poses a threat to the religious liberty that all Americans, including the many Christians, Mormons, Muslims, Jews, Orthodox, Hindu, Catholics, and others that find this bill troubling, hold dear. Religious liberty can be abused, but there are many people who practice their religion with respect and love toward others. And to codify into law a restriction on good parents' ability to teach their children their religious beliefs and values about gender, sexuality, and wisdom flies directly in the face of the U.S. Constitution's first amendment: "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.*" As a Christian, HB25-1312 deeply troubles me.

HB25-1312 is also scientifically reckless and dishonest in that it assumes children are physiologically and intellectually capable of making sound and wise decisions about gender without their parents' input. There are many good parents in Colorado; fathers and mothers faithfully seeking to understand and respond to their children's needs with loving, wise, counsel and guidance. And children and teenagers are in desperate need of their parents' guidance. The human frontal cortex - crucial for executive functions like reasoning, planning, and impulse control - doesn't fully develop until around 25 years old. Hormonal changes during adolescence pose its own set of challenges to a young person's ability to think thoroughly and carefully. In Colorado we don't allow children under the age of 18 to get a tattoo without parental consent, but we're potentially about to allow this new gender identity revolution to drive us into codifying into law that a child should be allowed to make their own permanent decisions regarding what gender they are? On top of this, the gender identity revolution is so new that we don't even have a large enough sample size of the long term effects that transitioning is having on people. In other words, we have no idea, purely from a scientific standpoint, what allowing children to make these monumental decisions without their parents' input, will do to them years later. As a parent, HB25-1312 deeply troubles me.

The Christian Scriptures teach that God is a holy, loving, and wise Creator who is intimately involved with the beginning and furtherance of every human life. And that every person is made in His image and inherently worthy of dignity and respect. It also teaches that going against God's holy, loving, and wise design in any way is called "sin", and that He rightly stands as a just Judge over every sin and all who commit them. Therefore, codifying into law a child's right to defy God's holy, loving and wise design for sexuality, gender, and a child's relationship to their parents would be an evil subject to God's just judgement. But the Christian Scriptures also teach that every bit of sin, sadness, sickness, and all other forms of what we might call "brokenness" has been lovingly addressed by this same God through the sending of a Savior, Jesus of Nazareth, His Son, to take upon Himself all sin, sorrow, sickness, and brokenness, through His life, death on a cross, and triumphant resurrection from the dead, so that simply through faith in Him, all people have the hope of being restored spiritually and physically, in this life and in the life to come. I believe this with all of my heart. I have staked my entire life on it. And I am convinced with every fiber of my being that this good news, what Christians call "the gospel", is the only real solution to the many and diverse problems that we face in our society, including the sweeping epidemic of gender confusion that our state is seeking to address through HB25-1312.

I don't expect every American to believe the Christian Scripture like I do. But I beseech you as the representatives and leaders of our state, to heed the call of constituents like me, Christian or otherwise, who are deeply troubled by HB25-1312. Please do not codify this into law. To do so would be an act of rebellion against God on high, and an attack on freedom, the constitution, science, and every American, Christian, and parent in our state.

Matthew J. LaCava
American, Christian, parent
Brighton, CO

April 29, 2025

Members of the Senate,

I am writing not only as a concerned parent, but a medical professional who is against HB25-1312. Children are not mentally capable of making life and body-altering decisions due to their brains not being completely developed. Specifically, the prefrontal cortex. This portion of the brain does not finish developing until a person's mid-to-late 20s. It is responsible for mental processes such as executive function (planning, decision-making, and impulse control) and emotional control. In adolescents in particular, this causes them to participate in more risk-taking behaviors, handle stress poorly, and have increased susceptibility to depression and anxiety (National Institute of Mental Health, 2023). Any of these can cause an adolescent to desire to be someone else, leading to gender dysphoria (GD).

GD is a mental health disorder that requires psychiatric support (Garg, Elshimy, & Marwaha, 2023). It is NOT a physical disorder that requires permanently mutilating and changing a child's endocrine system by administering unnecessary hormones. Parents should not be punished for attempting to obtain psychiatric support for their child. Colorado does not allow children to purchase alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, or guns, or even vote due to being under a certain age. So how is it logical to allow them to dictate to their parents what unnecessary medical procedures and prescriptions they desire? This decision needs to be postponed until they are mentally capable of making such permanent choices (i.e. - their prefrontal cortex has had enough time to develop). This bill does not protect our children. It strips away parental rights, circumvents child protection laws, imposes gender ideologies on everyone, and attacks free speech and religious liberty. This bill targets a minority and does not represent what majority of Colorado parents' desire. Please consider how much harm and family separation this bill would bring upon innocent children, and vote AGAINST it.

Sincerely,

Ashley Ruiz, Certified Family Nurse Practitioner

References:

National Institute of Mental Health. (2023). *The Teen Brain: 7 Things to Know*.
<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/the-teen-brain-7-things-to-know>

Garg, G., Elshimy, G., & Marwaha, R. (2023, July 11). Gender Dysphoria.
National Library of Medicine. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK532313/>

Testimony in Support of HB25-1312 – The Kelly Loving Act

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marcella Schieffelin, I live in Mesa County, and I'm testifying in my behalf.

I am writing in strong support of HB25-1312 because it affirms the basic human right to self-determination, dignity, and legal protection—especially for transgender individuals in Colorado.

When someone changes their name after marriage or moves to a new state and changes their statehood, we honor those decisions as expressions of identity. We don't demand proof or question their legitimacy—we celebrate them. The same should be true when a transgender person takes steps to live as their authentic self. It's not special treatment. It's equal treatment.

Some parents may not agree with their child's identity, especially when religious beliefs are involved. But disagreement is not the same as rejection or control. A parent's role is to nurture, guide, and support—not impose beliefs. True guidance involves creating space for exploration and understanding, not demanding conformity. Faith-based values must not be weaponized to deny others their rights.

Religious liberty should never mean the liberty to deny someone else's humanity. If we protect religious convictions, we must protect *all* of them. Jewish law, for example, supports access to abortion in ways Christian doctrine may not—yet policy decisions often reflect only one tradition. Whose faith are we truly protecting?

According to the Public Religion Research Institute, 76% of Americans support nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people. Even those who don't fully understand or agree with someone's gender identity still believe in fairness under the law.

Being transgender is not a belief system—it is a lived identity. Respecting that identity by using chosen names, affirming pronouns, and protecting people from targeted discrimination is not a political act. It is a moral one.

HB25-1312 does not force agreement—it asks for respect. It does not punish beliefs—it protects people. It ensures that in Colorado, all people—including those most vulnerable to violence, isolation, and legal erasure—can live with safety and dignity.

I urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you.

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 25-1312

Submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee

April 24, 2025

Chair Rodriguez, Ranking Member Gardner, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding House Bill 25-1312. My name is Laura Nehoda, a Registered Family Nurse Practitioner with 10 years experience as an NP and a total of 18 years in the Nursing profession. I am a concerned and loving mother of two young children ages 6 and 3. I am a resident of Fort Collins, Colorado. I am speaking today to respectfully express my **strong opposition** to this legislation, known as the "Kelly Loving Act."

While I support efforts to ensure all people are treated with dignity, this bill raises serious concerns related to **parental rights, free speech, medical ethics, and the role of social media in influencing vulnerable youth.**

Concerns About Family Law Provisions

HB25-1312 would allow courts to consider actions such as “misgendering” or “deadnaming” a child as coercive control when making custody decisions. This kind of broad and subjective language risks punishing parents who are trying their best to support their children while grappling with deeply personal, medical, and developmental issues. Disagreeing with a child’s self-declared identity—especially when that identity may be transient—should not be equated with abuse.

Parents have a responsibility to **ask questions, seek second opinions**, and in some cases, **wait before making permanent medical decisions**. That is not coercion—it is caution, rooted in care.

Lack of FDA Approval and Medical Oversight

Many of the medical interventions commonly used in “gender-affirming care” **are not FDA-approved** for the treatment of gender dysphoria in minors. The fact that these medications are being used off-label on children, without long-term safety data, should be **alarming to every lawmaker and health professional.**

Around the world, nations are exercising more caution. **Brazil** has banned medical gender transitions under age 18 and surgical interventions until 21, recognizing the grave risks involved.

According to the **Florida Board of Medicine**, the treatment of gender dysphoria in minors is based on **poor-quality and limited research**. This is stated on all of their consents to treat patients for gender dysphoria. The Board concluded that only **subtle psychological**

improvements have been seen in some—but not all—studies, and that those potential benefits may not outweigh the **significant medical risks**.

In addition:

- The **adverse effects and long-term safety of puberty blockers are not well known**.
- **Puberty blockers do not prevent suicide**, and may cause **worsened psychiatric symptoms** such as crying, irritability, restlessness, aggression, and impulsivity.
- They pose a **seizure risk**, which may be even higher in youth who are also prescribed **antidepressants** like **bupropion** or **SSRIs** (e.g., Lexapro, Prozac, Zoloft)
- **Bone density loss, impaired growth, and potentially stalled brain development** are also associated with these drugs.

The Influence of Social Media and Cultural Pressure

Historically, gender dysphoria was a rare condition presenting between the ages of 2 and 4, affecting approximately **0.01 % of the male population**, with up to **70 % of affected children naturally desisting** by adolescence. But in the last decade, we've seen an **unprecedented spike**, particularly among **adolescent females**.

This shift coincides with the rise of **social media platforms** such as TikTok, YouTube and Reddit, where teens are immersed in communities that celebrate and encourage gender identity changes as a form of belonging or escape from emotional distress. These platforms **discourage critical thinking, medical questioning, and mental health evaluations** that explore other root causes such as trauma, autism, anxiety, or depression.

The sudden shift suggests that we are not dealing with a purely medical phenomenon, but rather a **social trend fueled by peer pressure, algorithms, and affirmation-seeking behaviors**. This raises legitimate questions about the **role of social media, online communities, and peer dynamics in influencing identity formation** during the most emotionally and neurologically vulnerable stages of these children's lives.

This kind of influence has contributed to what some researchers describe as a "**social contagion**" effect, leading to irreversible medical interventions that may not ultimately align with long-term well-being.

Free Speech and Religious Rights at Risk

The bill also proposes that "misgendering" and "deadnaming" be treated as discrimination under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. While no one should be harassed or bullied, **compelled speech and belief enforcement** crosses a constitutional line, freedom of speech and religious rights. Individuals—whether healthcare workers, teachers, parents, or counselors—should not be punished for using language consistent with their sincere beliefs or biological understanding, especially when it is done in love and concern.

Interstate Implications and Constitutional Questions

The bill prohibits Colorado courts from recognizing custody orders from other states if those orders restrict gender-affirming care. This risks **undermining interstate legal cooperation** and potentially violates the **Full Faith and Credit Clause of the U.S. Constitution**.

Conclusion

As a parent, I love my children unconditionally. I would do anything to protect them, guide them, and support them—even when that means having hard conversations or slowing down before life-altering decisions are made. I am here today **not out of hate, but because of deep love** for my children and for all children and parents in Colorado.

This bill takes away my right to parent. It puts decisions in the hands of the state, the courts, and even social media trends instead of allowing parents to raise their children with care, prudence, and devotion. I urge you—please—**do not take away our role as mothers and fathers**. We are not the enemy. We are the first line of defense for our kids.

Respectfully,

Laura S. Nehoda FNP-C, MSN, BSN.

Fort Collins, Colorado

Vote NAY/NO on advancement of HB25-1312, [misleadingly] titled “Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals” and “Kelly Loving Act”...

=====

The Colorado Parent Advocacy Network (CPAN) is calling on all Coloradans and our allies to join in fighting one of the most extreme and unconstitutional bills we’ve ever seen: HB25-1312 – misleadingly titled “Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals.”

What HB25-1312 REALLY Would Do-IF passed on:

- Redefine “coercive control” to include “misgendering” or “deadnaming” your own child—making it grounds for losing custody in family court or through CPS.
- Define misgendering as a form of discrimination under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act—forcing every business and public space to comply.
- Violate the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children and make decisions about their care, education, and well-being without government interference.

HB25-1312 is an unconstitutional assault on parental rights and must be stopped. This is a dangerous bill. The government must be stopped from turning loving parents into criminals for refusing to conform to state-imposed ideology. Protect Colorado families before it’s too late by VOTING NAY/NO on passage of HB25-1312.

ADDITIONALLY,

The Colorado Catholic Conference (CCC) calls on Catholics across the state to take action and testify in opposition to House Bill 25-1312, which is scheduled for a hearing on Wednesday, April 30. I will extend that call to all Colorado Assembly Republicans and Democrats—thereby, preventing passage of this terrible bill.

The bill seeks to expand legal protections for transgender individuals across several Colorado statutes. However, the CCC warns that such changes would come at the expense of parental rights and First Amendment rights, if HB25-1312 is passed.

According to the CCC, HB25-1312 could have serious consequences for Colorado families, as well as religious organizations and institutions, including Catholic schools — potentially forcing parents to lose custody rights over trans-identifying children. “This bill would compromise the ability of parents to make decisions regarding their children and infringe on the rights of faith-based institutions to operate in accordance with their deeply held religious beliefs,” the CCC said in an official statement, and I am of the same opinion.

The CCC emphasizes the importance of defending the constitutional rights of all Coloradans while standing firm in the Church’s commitment to truth, parental authority and religious liberty. I, as a member of Christ First Community Church of Canon City, Colorado, am of the same opinion.

AND FINALLY,

This attempted destruction of the morals of our society through the EBT Agenda, must be stopped now, or there will be no sustainable structure for the future generations, generations of our/your children and grandchildren. I encourage all Democrats & Republicans to vote NAY/NO on passage of HB25-1312 today...

Mdc

April 28, 2025

Attn: Senate Judiciary Committee

Hearing Scheduled: April 30, 2025 1:30pm

Re: NO on HB25-1312

As a fourth-generation-Coloradan and mother to three extraordinary young men, I am appalled and infuriated that our state government is even considering HB25-1312. It's an egregious violation of our parental rights as well as 1st Amendment rights. To not only compel our speech, but to undermine our authority as parents is unacceptable.

I wholeheartedly ask you to vote AGAINST HB25-1312 for the following reasons:

- Denying Parental Rights. This bill threatens parental authority by considering parents who call a child by their birth name and pronoun that match their sex as unfit in custody disputes. It also bars Colorado courts from honoring other states' laws that protect children from harmful "gender transitions"—trampling parental rights and ignoring state sovereignty in the process.
- Violating Free Speech. This bill dangerously defines "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as discrimination under Colorado law—effectively criminalizing speech. Courts have already ruled: the government can't compel speech.
- Harming Vulnerable Children. Up to 98% of children with gender confusion outgrow it and accept their biological sex. But "gender affirming care" pushes them toward castration, sterilization, and permanent sexual dysfunction. After surgery, suicide rates skyrocket—nearly 20 times higher than average. Social transitions and puberty blockers often lock kids into a lifetime of medical dependency. Tearing them from loving, fit families based on bogus abuse claims only puts them at greater risk.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Nelson
303-946-5544
lnelson@postpro.net
Strasburg, CO 80136

Jennifer Jeffery
Longmont, Co, 80501
JayBoulder@gmail.com
April 30, 2025

Senate Judiciary Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E Colfax Ave
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Opposition to HB25-1312 – “Kelly Loving Act”

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I’m writing today to express my concerns about House Bill 25-1312, also known as the “Kelly Loving Act.” I appreciate the intentions behind this bill—protecting the dignity and well-being of transgender individuals, particularly youth. But HB25-1312, as currently written, crosses a line no government in a free society should ever cross: it forces compliance to a belief system with threat of punishment.

We must distinguish between protecting people from harm and requiring others to express beliefs they may not hold. This bill shifts from safeguarding civil rights into mandating personal speech and belief, especially in the highly sensitive arenas of parenting, education, and public discourse.

By potentially labeling a parent “coercive” in a custody case for misnaming or misgendering their child—even if done from confusion or personal struggle rather than hostility—this bill criminalizes disagreement. It punishes not just actions, but thoughts that diverge from a particular ideology.

It also mandates that schools and public agencies use chosen names and pronouns at all times, regardless of context or personal conscience. In doing so, the bill effectively elevates one worldview over all others, with dissent treated as dangerous or hateful.

To highlight the risk: Imagine if a conservative legislature passed a law requiring every public school teacher or government employee to refer to Donald Trump by his new pronoun, “king” — and made refusal to use that language a punishable offense. There would be instant outrage,

and rightly so. Partly because of who it involves, but also because forced speech is always authoritarian, no matter the ideology behind it.

I believe in a diverse and inclusive society—but a truly inclusive culture must also make room for diversity of thought. That means allowing people to speak freely, even when their views challenge the current cultural norms. As one thinker said, and I agree:

“Forced speech is forced thought, and forced thought is the seed of tyranny.”

We do not need to sacrifice free expression in order to protect trans rights. We can have both. But when legislation begins to mandate language, to tell people what they must say in order to keep custody of their children or work in public institutions, we are no longer empowering the marginalized—we are compelling belief.

I urge you to reconsider this bill. Laws should protect people from violence and discrimination—not require citizens to affirm a specific belief system in order to avoid punishment. We must defend the sacred right of all people to speak truth as they see it, even when it conflicts with the current culture.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to civil liberties.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L Jeffery

Written Testimony Opposing HB25-1312 – "Kelly Loving Act"

To the Honorable Members of the Colorado General Assembly:

My name is Daniela Waddell, and I am writing to express my respectful opposition to House Bill 25-1312, the "Kelly Loving Act." While I support the fair and equal treatment of all individuals, I have serious concerns about this bill's implications for parental rights, free speech, religious freedom, and local governance, as well as the bill's broader social and legal impacts.

I respectfully urge legislators to reconsider or amend this legislation for the following reasons:

1. Undermining Parental Rights and Medical Oversight

Sections of HB25-1312 prohibit courts from enforcing laws of other states that penalize parents for supporting gender-affirming care for minors. This raises concerns about undermining the ability of parents, courts, and medical professionals to fully evaluate the long-term consequences of medical interventions on minors, including hormone treatments or surgeries that may carry lifelong impacts. Many believe that such decisions should involve careful, individualized assessment—not blanket protections that may override caution or differing medical opinions.

2. Overbroad Definition of Discrimination

Sections 8 and 9 define intentional "deadnaming" or "misgendering" as discriminatory practices under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. While respect for individuals is important, codifying such language use into civil rights law could have unintended consequences, including infringing on free speech rights, especially in cases where people may have sincere religious or personal beliefs regarding gender identity. This could also open the door to legal action over perceived or accidental misstatements, chilling open dialogue and expression.

3. Mandated Changes to School Policies

Sections 4 through 6 require schools to respect students' chosen names and allow compliance with dress codes based on gender identity. Critics argue that this imposes top-down mandates on local schools, reducing the discretion of educators and administrators to handle complex situations involving student behavior, parental input, and educational consistency. These provisions may conflict with the views of families who believe in clear, biological definitions of sex and gender roles in schools.

4. Family Law and Coercive Control

While combating abuse in custody decisions is essential, expanding “coercive control” to include misgendering or outing could be highly subjective and difficult to adjudicate (Section 2). There is concern this could be used to unfairly penalize one parent over another in custody cases simply for holding differing beliefs about gender or expressing concern about medical decisions involving their child.

5. Mandates on Government Forms

Section 7 requires public agencies to allow individuals to list both legal and chosen names. While flexibility in identity is increasingly common, this requirement could create confusion or complications in official recordkeeping, identification, and administrative processes, particularly when legal consistency is important for law enforcement, medical records, or public benefits systems.

HB25-1312 proposes sweeping changes that many Coloradans—while supporting the respectful treatment of all people—believe go too far, too fast, without fully considering the legal, medical, and cultural complexities involved. I urge lawmakers to more carefully balance civil rights protections with free speech, parental rights, due process, and the role of local institutions.

I respectfully request that the committee either vote against HB25-1312 or significantly amend the bill to allow for broader public input, parental involvement, and constitutional safeguards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniela Waddell

Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Testimony

Trans rights are more important than the government thinks. It is valid that we protect these rights in the State of Colorado for the sake of its citizens. It's best to know it's important to create a safe space for them where they don't fear being themselves now than to find out how imperative it was later.

I know a few trans people in my life and they're all friends of mine. I want to see them happy and thriving without the worry of not getting the gender affirming care that they need. This isn't something that is a want, it's a necessity not only for their health but their mental wellbeing. I may not be a therapist but one thing I do know is that not getting gender affirming healthcare creates gender dysphoria, anxiety, depression and even suicidal thoughts. These people feel like they do not belong in their own bodies without this kind of healthcare, and forcing them into it by law makes them feel unseen, attacked and even worse than they already feel. There are people that I know that have given up on trying for gender affirming healthcare because of our government situation and they're afraid to seek the healthcare they need to live happily.

We need to create a space where people don't have to fear healthcare or the providers. These are people like you and me, people trying to live their lives and get what they need. It needs to stop being us vs them because there is no them. We are responsible for making sure our fellow human beings on this planet feel safe and heard. This is why we need to protect trans rights in the state of Colorado. Not only for our citizens, but also so that hopefully other states feel inspired to do the same.

30 April 2025

Good afternoon, Members of the Committee!

Thank you for your time today and for the work you do for your constituents! My name is Mandy M. Oaks and I am the Director of Research for Gays Against Groomers.

I am writing to you today about HB25-1312 (a.k.a. The Kelly Loving Act), specifically sections two and three.

These sections disregard and violate parental rights. Parental rights are protected under the U.S. Supreme Court's 14th Amendment in *Washington v. Glucksberg*. As you are aware, this Amendment affirms the right of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children.

As we know, there are times when the government should step in and save children from abusive parents/guardians and institutions. Thankfully, there are already laws in place to protect children from abuse and neglect:

Rev. Stat. § 19-1-103 or the "Children's Code"

The Legislative directive of this code is "To secure for each child subject to these provisions such care and guidance, **preferably in his own home**, as will best serve his welfare and the interests of society;"¹

Rev. Stat. § 19-1-103 clearly defines abuse as:

"'Abuse' or 'child abuse or neglect' means an act or omission that threatens the health or welfare of a child in one of the following categories:

- Skin bruising, bleeding, malnutrition, failure to thrive, burns, fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, soft tissue swelling, or death, and any of the following applies:
 - o The condition or death is not justifiably explained.
 - o The history given concerning the condition is at variance with the degree or type of such condition or death.
 - o The circumstances indicate that the condition may not be the result of an accidental occurrence.
- A controlled substance is manufactured in the presence of a child, on the premises where a child is found, or where a child resides.
- A child is born affected by alcohol or substance exposure, except when taken as prescribed or recommended and monitored by a licensed health-care provider, and the newborn child's health or welfare is threatened by substance use.
- A child is subjected to human trafficking of a minor for involuntary servitude, as described in § 18-3-503, or for sexual servitude, as described in § 18-3-504."²

Rev. Stat. § 19-1-103 rightly protects children from danger; however, HB25-1312 (a.k.a. The Kelly Loving Act), does the complete opposite. Rather than recognizing children as vulnerable humans to be protected, The Kelly Loving Act reduces children to nothing more than state property or chattel.

The Kelly Loving Act undermines parental rights, children's rights, and the "Children's Code." This Act is reminiscent of what happened in Florida in the 1900s to early 2000s. Florida laws allowed boys to be forcefully taken from their homes for minor and often imaginary crimes and sent to a state run facility called the Dozier School for Boys (a.k.a. Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys). What happened to those boys was unconscionable. Some boys didn't survive, those who did were scarred for life. Many parents and Floridians were duped by the state government to believe that their boys were in a better place and, thus, it was necessary for parents and children to be stripped of their rights. This, sadly, was not the case. The corruption that has since been uncovered is horrifying: corrupt judges, beatings, sexual assaults, torture, burials in unmarked graves, etc.³

Yet, through The Kelly Loving Act, Colorado is trying to repeat history by again, stripping parents of their rights, claiming the government knows how best to raise their children. This bill demands that parents support torture through sterilization, mutilations through medical procedures on our most vulnerable in society: children.

This bill creates conditions that prohibit "deadnaming" and "misgendering," while forcing parents and others to use state-approved speech to appease Gender Queer Ideologists' demands.

Sections Eight and Nine go even further, weaponizing language itself by making deadnaming and misgendering a hate crime. In doing so, this bill doesn't just restrict speech — it compels speech. Citizens would not merely be told what they cannot say; they would be forced to say what the state demands.

This is censorship disguised as inclusion. It creates a legally protected class for ideological beliefs, enforcing what amounts to a religious code of conduct — a "nondiscrimination sharia law" — that punishes dissent.

HB25-1312 is a direct assault on both the 14th and 1st Amendments and completely undermines the "Children's Code."

For these reasons, I urge a NO vote on HB25-1312.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mandy M. Oaks
Director of Research Gays Against Groomers
423-967-0371

¹ Colorado Revised Statutes 2023: Title 19 The Children's Code

<https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/olls/crs2023-title-19.pdf>

² Child Welfare Information Gateway: Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect - Colorado

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/resources/definitions-child-abuse-and-neglect-colorado/>

³ Allen, Greg. Florida's Dozier School For Boys: A True Horror Story. NPR. October 15, 2012.

<https://www.npr.org/2012/10/15/162941770/floridas-dozier-school-for-boys-a-true-horror-story>

Please do not pass SB 25-1312.

Parents have a legal, natural, and God-given right to parent their children in accordance with their beliefs and attitudes. Parents naturally know and love their children and are therefore the best arbiters and advocates of what is best for them. SB 25-1312 usurps parental rights and exposes children to exploitation from authority figures whose intentions may be dubious or harmful to them. This bill is a violation of parental rights, it is dangerous for children, it is unlawful, and will result in litigation in higher courts if it is passed. It should be voted **AGAINST**, without question.

Vote NO on HB25-1312

Senators,

Thank you for your time and attention. It is unclear whether anyone will read this plea of mine, but I will make it nonetheless.

I make this plea on behalf of your eternal souls and the suffering that will pursue you for all of eternity unless you turn from your wickedness, submit to Jesus as Lord and Savior and receive eternal rest for your souls.

- God has a particularly stark warning for those who lead children into sin:
 - In the words of Jesus - Mark 9:42 - Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.
- HB25-1312 further traps vulnerable children and confused adults who have been lied to about one of the most fundamental aspects of their being:
 - In the words of Jesus - Matthew 19:4 He answered, 'Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,'
- The eternal future that awaits you is horrific:
 - In the words of Jesus - Luke 16:23-24: And in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham from afar and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame.'
- All of us deserve eternal punishment. Apart from Christ I am no better than you and equally deserving of the eternal wrath to come. But there is a way out:
 - In the words of Jesus - John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
 - In the words of Paul - Romans 10:9 - Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

I am going home soon, on that day when I breathe my last. Won't you come join me? Repent and believe!

May God have mercy on you.

One who weeps for you, John

April 30, 2025

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee, Colorado Assembly

SUBJECT: HB25-1312, Protections for Transgender Individuals

I urge a no vote on HB25-1312, which is a blatant violation of parental rights under the 14th Amendment and freedom of speech under the 1st Amendment.

First, this bill is a grotesque violation of parental rights under the 14th Amendment. HB25-1312 says that if a parent calls his 7-year old child by his given name, Tom, after Tom comes home from school saying he is really a girl and his name is Sally, the parent is guilty of “coercive control” and could lose custody or visitation rights. This is a violation of parental constitutional rights, to raise their children and direct their children’s upbringing.

The US Supreme Court has held that parental rights regarding the upbringing, education, and care of their children are a fundamental constitutional right under the 14th Amendment Due Process clause in the US Constitution. Specifically, the Supreme Court held in Nebraska v. Meyers (1922), 262 U.S. 390 (1922) that a state law requiring that school classes be taught in English violated fundamental parental rights to control the education of their children under the 14th Amendment Due Process Clause. A parochial school run by the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Congregation taught classes in German. The Court spoke to the substantive meaning of the Due Process clause:

“While the Court has not attempted to define with exactness the liberty thus guaranteed, the term has received much consideration and some of the included things have been definitely stated. Without doubt, it denotes not merely freedom from bodily restraint, but also the right of the individual to contract, to engage in any of the common occupations of life, to acquire useful knowledge, to marry, **establish a home and bring up children**, to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, and generally to enjoy those privileges long recognized at common law as essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men.”
(emphasis added)

The Court reaffirmed parental rights over the upbringing of their children in Pierce v. Society of Sisters, 268 U.S. 510 (1925), as a fundamental constitutional right. In Pierce, the Court struck down an Oregon law requiring all children attend public schools, as a violation of a parent's right to determine the appropriate schools for their child's education. The Court said in its ruling:

“The fundamental theory of liberty upon which all governments in this Union repose excludes any general power of the State to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teachers only. ***The child is not the mere creature of the state; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations.***” (emphasis added)

Both Meyers and Pierce decisions have been reaffirmed by the US Supreme Court in subsequent cases.

Second, HB25-1312 violates freedom of speech under the 1st Amendment, by prohibiting certain speech (here, using the legal name associated with biological gender) and through “compelled speech” enforced by government coercion. This bill is a blatant example of government “speech” control which punishes certain speech and compels citizens to say the government-required words.

HB25-1312 is Orwellian and carries the stench of totalitarianism. History is replete with governments that not only regulated every aspect of individual behavior but also mandated that certain speech is prohibited and other speech is compelled. If the government speech code is not complied with, the offender will be punished. The 1st Amendment right to freedom of speech and 14th Amendment parental rights protect Americans from such abuses. Thankfully, those who wrote the Bill of Rights did know history and specifically wrote limitations on government actions to protect our liberties.

I urge a no vote on HB25-1312.

Terri Carver

Former State Representative (2014-2022)

Dear distinguished state senators and fellow Coloradoans,

My name is Maeve MacMillan and i am transgender. I was born and lived in CO my whole life. I once was a transgender child and i knew it! All transgender adults used to be trans kids, even if they didn't know it at the time.

You have before you a vote of the highest degree of importance you will ever have, not only on the state constitution, but a vote declaring or declining human rights. That's what is at stake here.

HB25-1312, the Kelly Loving Act, is more than just about names, pronouns, clothing, or any other personal boundary any jurisdiction might try to control.

This bill is about the human rights of dignity and acknowledgement of transgender people, children and adults, as human beings with the same rights as everyone else. Within the state of being human are some rights not yet written into law. The average person has a right to be who they are, to use whatever name they want, to dress however they see fit for themselves, to act in the manner they choose. And typically, most people respect those things. We have a plague of hate in this country and worldwide that wants to end the human rights of transgender people. That's what's at stake here.

Those who oppose this bill would have you think we as trans people are deviant, degenerate, or somehow flawed. There is no significant or statistical evidence of that. Trans people pose no threat. We are no more dangerous to society than the average upstanding citizen like yourselves. Trans people are as likely to commit crime, or not! as anyone else. It is only fascism that seeks to oppress us, not logic or truth. The truth is not that trans children somehow don't know themselves. We know ourselves.

Most people have an identify, the self. Most people call each other by their names and pronouns for who they are. You aren't seen as the person opposite of what you are. You aren't called by a name different than what you identify with. But if a trans child identifies their self as something other than who their parents say they are or who society says they can be, can we please ensure they can be who they are. This bill ensures that. Many trans adults knew who we were when we were kids, but we weren't allowed to be ourselves. This act ensures the right for people to be themselves, as is inherent for any human being.

This bill is nothing less than a declaration of equal, human rights for transgender people including trans children, to be who they are.

Thank you

April 30, 2025

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee, Colorado Assembly

SUBJECT: HB25-1312, Protections for Transgender Individuals

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Second, HB25-1312 violates freedom of speech under the 1st Amendment, by prohibiting certain speech (here, using the legal name associated with biological gender) and through “compelled speech” enforced by government coercion. This bill is a blatant example of government “speech” control which punishes certain speech and compels citizens to say the government-required words.

HB25-1312 is Orwellian and carries the stench of totalitarianism. History is replete with governments that not only regulated every aspect of individual behavior but also mandated that certain speech is prohibited and other speech is compelled. If the government speech code is not complied with, the offender will be punished. The 1st Amendment right to freedom of speech and 14th Amendment parental rights protect Americans from such abuses. Thankfully, those who wrote the Bill of Rights did know history and specifically wrote limitations on government actions to protect our liberties.

I urge a no vote on HB25-1312.

Terri Carver

Former State Representative (2014-2022)

Written Testimony to the Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee

Date: April 30, 2025

Re: Opposition to House Bill 25-1312 – Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals

Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Rachel Keane, and I am a Colorado resident speaking as a free speech absolutist. I respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 25-1312, as it compels speech in violation of my fundamental First Amendment rights. As someone who believes the government must not force individuals to express or support specific viewpoints, I cannot be compelled to endorse or comply with this bill's provisions that infringe on free expression.

HB25-1312, the "Kelly Loving Act," includes measures defining "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as discriminatory acts under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, particularly in public accommodations. It also labels these actions as "coercive control" in child custody cases, potentially punishing parents for their speech. While the bill aims to protect transgender individuals, its language risks criminalizing or penalizing honest expression, such as using biologically accurate pronouns or legal names in public discourse, journalism, or private conversations. This overreach threatens my right to speak freely and practice my faith without fear of government retribution.

As a free speech absolutist, I hold that the First Amendment protects even controversial or offensive speech. The government cannot mandate that I affirm any individual's chosen identity or punish me for expressing my perspective, whether in a blog, book, or casual conversation. By classifying certain speech as discriminatory, HB25-1312 sets a precedent for the state to act as an arbiter of acceptable language, eroding the bedrock of open discourse. If the government can force me to support or comply with this bill's speech mandates, it can similarly compel other forms of expression, chilling dissent, and debate.

I urge the Committee to amend or reject HB25-1312 to protect free speech. Thank you for considering my testimony and for your commitment to upholding our constitutional rights.

Sincerely,
Rachel Keane
Colorado

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Jami Fassett, I use she/her pronouns, and I live in Broomfield 80023. I'm a parent of a trans child, and I'm writing to express my strong support for HB25-1312 – The Kelly Loving Act.

I know firsthand how important it is to protect transgender kids from being deadnamed and misgendered because my kiddo (he/him pronouns) is trans. He began going by a new name and pronouns in 1st grade (6 years ago) and whether or not they were honored had a huge impact on his mental and physical health.

I know, without doubt, that supporting my child's transition has the best thing for his health and happiness. He's thriving now with our support and gender-affirming care. It's terrifying to think that under the new Executive Order steps could be taken to remove him from my care specifically because of my support. This would cause him irreparable harm.

Colorado has made powerful progress in protecting LGBTQ+ rights—but many of those protections still rely on administrative rules. Without action, that progress can be undone with the stroke of a pen. This bill locks in those protections and makes it possible to fight intentional discriminatory practices.

Everyone deserves access to live and learn and use the name and pronouns they choose, without shame, stigma, or fear. No one should have their rights taken away because of who they are. No one should have their child taken away because of excellent and supportive parenting that is supported by every major medical association for gender dysphoria.

I urge you to vote YES on HB25-1312. This bill is about protecting children and families as they navigate a gender-affirming journey. It's about stability, safety, and making sure Colorado continues to lead with dignity and fairness for all communities.

Thank you for your time, service, and commitment to the people of Colorado.

Sincerely,
Jami Fassett
she/her
80023
Parent of a trans child

Senate Judiciary

04/30/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1312 Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Megan Schulze Against themselves	My name is Megan Schulze and I represent myself. I strongly oppose HB25-1312. It is obviously a violation of our constitutional rights as free speech cannot be compelled. The bill will force Coloradans to abandon their beliefs, and reality, to support a false narrative. It is not discriminatory to speak the truth, and demanding Coloradans use specific language is coercive control. Which is interesting as this bill specifically outlines what coercive control means. The attack on parental rights is astounding. Parents who want to protect their children from the trans ideology and the lies that one sex can become the other is not coercive or abusive, it is reality. Requiring schools to implement all-inclusive chosen name policies and specific dress codes without any rules based on gender is disruptive. Schools are a place to learn, not to entertain random non-legal name changes and not be an adolescence daytime drag show. Additionally, business owners, already overregulated, would then have to go against their own beliefs to appease persons who are mentally unstable or be faced with discrimination complaints or civil lawsuits. This bill, if passed into law, will create a plethora of complaints and lawsuits and will negatively disrupt the livelihood of Coloradans. The focus on violating our constitutional rights, attacking parents who are protecting their children from lifelong negative consequences, and trying to shape an entire generation on lies should be re-directed to support mental health, or better yet, leave our kids alone altogether. I strongly oppose this bill and I request that the bill be postponed indefinitely. Thank you for your time.
Katrina Radley Against themselves	HB25-1312 threatens free speech, religious liberty, and parental rights enshrined in the 14th Amendment, which guards "life, liberty, or property" against state overreach without due process. The Supreme Court has long upheld parents' rights to direct their children's upbringing. Our representatives refused to take comment and ignored our Constitutional rights in order to proceed with a policy that requires parents to affirm their children's gender ideology or lose custody of them. You would think to impose such strong consequences, there must be a scientific basis, but there isn't. The concept of transgenderism was introduced by Dr. John Money who was approached by a family who had twin boys, one of whom was castrated during a botched circumcision. John Money instructed the family to raise their castrated son as a girl. He studied and sexually abused the boys for years, and touted it as a wild success to the medical community despite signs of deep mental health issues and the boy's discomfort being raised as a girl. One of the sons committed suicide, the other died of an overdose, but this one horrendous study is the cornerstone of the transgender movement. It is hardly a success story and there is no other scientific basis for transgender theory. Real science tells us there are two sexes, no genders, and infinite personalities. Any sane, loving parent would refuse to lie to their child or take them down a path of irreversible harm. The American College of Pediatrics

	warns that medical interventions cause harm. Puberty blockers risk decreased bone density and underdeveloped genital tissue which can effect sexual function and result in sterility; cross-sex hormones may cause clots, heart disease, or strokes; surgeries risk infection, guarantee scars and lost function like inability to breastfeed. Studies—like Dhejne (2011) showing a 19.1-times-higher suicide rate post-surgery and a 2021 Frontiers in Psychiatry report on worsening suicidal ideation—suggest these interventions don't heal but harm. Not to mention the legal confusion this could create when addressing gender fluid people. This extreme bill infringes on our rights, has no scientific support, creates turmoil in kid's lives, and destroys families. It is not okay to steal children from their parents over a difference of opinion on how they should be raised when these kids do not belong to the state. Whatever happened to enumerated powers and the Bill of Rights? Coloradans will not sit back and take this. Hands off our kids!
Mary Salfi Against themselves	Insanity. One bill after the other that is an assault on our rights. Enough already. Do I really need to explain why this needs to be voted against. What in the world?? VOTE NO!!
mary zeinstra Against themselves	Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to write today. My name is Mary Zeinstra. I am a parent in Boulder County. I stand in strong opposition to House Bill 25-1312, commonly referred to as the "Kelly Loving Act." While I recognize the intent to protect individuals, this bill, as written, oversteps into dangerous territory—threatening parental rights, undermining child welfare, and creating a legal framework ripe for abuse. At its core, HB25-1312 redefines fundamental aspects of family life and personal belief as potential acts of harm. Section 2 of the bill instructs courts to consider "deadnaming," "misgendering," or even questioning gender-affirming healthcare as forms of "coercive control" in custody disputes. This is a profound shift. It suggests that a parent who disagrees with a child's self-identified gender—or with the other parent's assertion of that identity—could be labeled abusive, not for any act of violence or neglect, but for their perspective. This is not protection; it is punishment for thought. Consider a scenario: one parent claims a child is transgender, perhaps based on their own beliefs or ideology, and demands immediate affirmation and medical intervention. The other parent, out of caution or concern for the child's long-term well-being, advocates for a slower approach—perhaps counseling or time to ensure the child's feelings are consistent and self-directed. Under this bill, that second parent risks losing custody, not because they've harmed their child, but because they've dared to question. Where is the burden of proof? Where is the child's voice in this equation? This bill allows one parent's unilateral declaration to weaponize the court against the other, turning family disputes into ideological battlegrounds.

	Children are not pawns. They deserve parents who can advocate for them thoughtfully, without fear of legal reprisal. Research shows that gender dysphoria in youth can resolve naturally over time in many cases—sometimes as high as 80% before adulthood. A parent who urges patience, who seeks to explore all options, is not an abuser; they are a guardian. Yet HB25-1312 casts such care as coercive, tilting the scales against reason and toward irreversible decisions. Beyond the family, this bill extends its reach into schools and public spaces. Sections 4 through 6 mandate policies on chosen names and gender-neutral dress codes, while Sections 8 and 9 classify "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as discriminatory acts under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. I ask you: how will this be enforced? Will teachers face lawsuits for using a legal name on a roster? Will students be disciplined for honest mistakes? This creates a chilling effect, where free speech and even basic human interaction are policed under the guise of inclusion. i do not deny the need to support vulnerable individuals, including those exploring their gender identity. Compassion and dignity matter. But this bill does not strike a balance—it swings a sledgehammer. It prioritizes ideology over evidence, conformity over dialogue, and state authority over family autonomy. It assumes guilt rather than fostering understanding. Colorado has a proud tradition of protecting individual rights, not dictating personal beliefs. HB25-1312 betrays that legacy. I urge you to reject this bill—not because it seeks to help, but because it harms in ways its drafters may not foresee. Protect our families. Protect our children. Protect our freedom to differ. Please vote no. Thank you, Mary Zeinstra Lafayette, Co
Pam Gonzales Against themselves	To Whom It May Concern, I am adamantly opposed to our elected officials taking our parental rights away from and out of our hands. I am asking that you uphold the rights of parents to raise our children in the manner which we choose in our religious beliefs and practices. Children under the age of 18 are to be raised by their family according to OUR beliefs and practices and our culture. If you vote to pass this bill, you are taking our parental rights away from us! To say educational institutions must not impose a

	gender specific dress code and must acknowledge a preferred pronoun goes against MY FAMILY's Christian faith and beliefs. It is your job to protect all Americans freedom in this state, beginning with the FAMILY! Vote NO on this bill that stands AGAINST family and works to divide them instead. Under the age of 18, our children are not allowed to drink, they cannot consent to their own medical treatment, cannot get tattoos without their parental consent. STOP this bill from passing! Sincerely, Pamela Gonzales
Janet Fichter Against themselves	I am a retired Jeffco teacher wishing to address the possibility that well-meaning efforts toward advocacy have evolved into an overreach of government. For 7 years of my Jeffco career, I was an ESL coach, which meant that I supported teachers, students and families in best practices for English language development for students with home languages other than English. The role was very rewarding, but the call to advocate for students was huge. Students were at risk of being ignored through instructional practices that did not provide for intentional language development. In my advocacy role, I had to be creative, I had to be inspirational, I had to be relentless, and I had to model for classroom teachers who were simply unaware that second language learners needed differentiated instructional practices. I believe, in part, this same role of advocacy is what some legislators are attempting to effect with HB25-1312. Sometimes, however, what we think is advocacy loses its way. This is what has happened with BH25:1312. Our state, our judiciary, our educational system here in Colorado will face an out of control locomotive soon to run off its tracks if this bill passes. In my years of advocating for students, never once did the hardworking educators in the multi-cultural education department work to discount the role of family in the lives of our students. Quite the contrary, we were evaluated based on our outreach to parents! We were trained in ways to creatively involve parents in their students' learning. Never once did we work to alienate children from their parents. Honoring the family unit was central to all we did. Indeed, it was a primary goal. This bill seeks an opposite goal. This bill intrudes upon the sacred... it interferes with and brings potential destruction to the sanctity of the family. Beyond the horror it will bring to families, if this bill passes, there will be long-lasting consequences to the judiciary, to schools, to mental health institutions as well. I know that there are many legislators who may be supporting the bill simply because it feeds your inclination to advocate for the marginalized. I urge you to take a balcony view of the far-reaching consequences this bill will have on the families and institutions of Colorado. I urge you to listen to that nagging voice inside that agrees with those of us who are crying out against the potential trainwreck of

	HB25:1312. Be courageous to go against the flow. Take a stand against the ones who are pressuring you to vote for something you know isn't right for children or families. Be aware of the grooming (some would label it as abuse) this bill fosters. That's why we elected you afterall. Your constituency never wanted you to simply tow the progressive line. We wanted you to advocate wisely and with foresight. A law which jeopardizes the family unit is the opposite of genuine advocacy. Indeed, it is advocacy gone completely awry. Working WITH families is the right course to take. Please vote no on HB25-1312 Thank you. Janet Fichter
Laurie Meyers For themselves	The Kelly Loving Act, is a necessary step forward in affirming and protecting transgender individuals—especially youth—at a time when their rights are under attack across the country. One of the bill's most vital contributions is its update to family law. It directs courts to treat deadnaming or misgendering a child as "coercive control," ensuring these harmful behaviors are considered in custody decisions. This isn't about punishing parents for disagreement; it's about safeguarding children from psychological harm. Respecting a child's identity is foundational to their well-being—and must be reflected in legal standards. Claiming "first ammendment rights" to cruelly refuse to recognize your child's personal autonomy is just that, cruel. The bill also shields Colorado families from hostile out-of-state laws by refusing to enforce custody orders that penalize parents for supporting gender-affirming care. In states where such care is now labeled as "abuse," families are fleeing to protect their children. The bill guarantees that Colorado will not assist in tearing these families apart. In schools, the bill ensures fairness and inclusion. It requires that policies around chosen names apply to all students, and that dress codes allow students to wear any permitted clothing regardless of gender. These changes affirm students' rights to self-expression and help create safe, respectful learning environments. HB25-1312 also strengthens anti-discrimination protections in public life, explicitly banning deadnaming and misgendering in places of public accommodation. It upholds basic dignity by requiring public entities to use chosen names wherever legally possible.
Dorothy Burke Against themselves	This bill threatens to eliminate family autonomy, free speech, and religious freedom. Parents should be able to make choices for their children before their children are grown adults. It is not up to the state to dictate those decisions. The children do not belong to the state or the "king".

	As evidenced by the current 26 cases (that we know of) of alleged abuse by teachers and administrators in Jefferson County, the government does not always have the best interests of children in mind. This bill is another attempt at pushing the progressive agenda.
Karie Swennes Against themselves	I'm strongly urging you to join us in opposition to 1312. It goes directly against God, is detrimental to families, and is unconstitutional. 1312 goes against God. Telling children that they can be a different gender and affirming their confusion rather than getting them counseling is child abuse. Allowing them to get a permanent disfiguring surgery on their perfectly made bodies is child abuse. Voting yes on this is evil. It must stop. 1312 is detrimental to families and the first amendment. This bill would remove children from their parents who want to get help for their child's confusion/mental health issues. This bill would force parents to affirm a new name and made up pronoun of their child's choosing, also force parents to accept "gender affirming care". Which is nothing more than genital mutilation and state sponsored child abuse . If you to pass this bill, one day you will have to answer to God and explain to him your part in forcing parents to stand by and watch helplessly as their children are forever disfigured. You will have to explain your reasons for allowing the destruction of children's lives and families. Vote no on this awful bill. Karie Swennes
Jenny Hansen Against themselves	_____ Jennifer Hansen 16684 Meadow Lane Mead, CO 80542 April 25, 2025 The Honorable Members of the Colorado Senate,

	Subject: Opposition to Proposed Legislation Restricting the Use of Birth Names for Children, Judiciary HB25-1312 Dear Senators, I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and a person of faith to respectfully voice my strong opposition to the proposed bill that would prohibit parents, guardians, educators, or others from addressing children by their given birth names should the child express a desire to be called by a different name. As a devout believer in the teachings of my faith, I hold deeply that names carry spiritual and familial significance. In many religious traditions, including my own, a child's name is not only a personal identifier but also a sacred symbol of heritage, identity, and divine purpose. It is given prayerfully and intentionally by parents who are entrusted by God with the sacred responsibility of guiding their children in love and truth. While I understand the intent of this bill may be to affirm individual identity, I believe it dangerously infringes upon parental rights, religious freedoms, and the natural role of families in shaping and nurturing their children. Compelling parents or educators to disregard a child's birth name against their conscience or religious beliefs violates the First Amendment protections we hold dear. Compassion and care for all children are crucial, and I support respectful dialogue and understanding. However, such legislation should not come at the expense of deeply held moral and religious convictions. It is my sincere hope that we can find a way forward that protects vulnerable youth without undermining the sacred rights of families and faith communities. Thank you for your time and attention to this deeply important matter. I urge you to vote against this bill and to consider the lasting implications it may have on families, religious liberty, and the foundational values of our nation. Respectfully, Jennifer Hansen

Alex Ruiz Against themselves	Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I'm Alex Ruiz, a first-generation Mexican American, engineer, and new parent from Thornton, CO, 80229. I'm unable to attend in person as I'm adjusting to life with two young children, but I strongly oppose HB25-1312 (Kelly Loving Act) and urge you to vote "no" in committee. As a Latino, I value family integrity, which this bill threatens. HB25-1312's custody provisions define "coercive control" to include parenting decisions on gender identity, risking courts separating fathers from their children. This exacerbates fatherlessness, a crisis affecting an estimated 40-45% of Latino children, which is linked to poverty and educational challenges. The UK's Cass Review (2022) found weak evidence for gender-affirming care's benefits in minors; Colorado should follow this science, not expand unproven policies. In 2024, 45% of Latino voters nationally supported candidates prioritizing family values, as did Gabe Evans' CO-08 win, reflecting our community's focus on parental authority. Yet, this bill erodes parental authority, and divisive rhetoric—like Rep. Woodrow's comparison of parents to the KKK—deeply offends families like mine. My Mexican American heritage centers on family, not extremism. The bill's flaws, especially on custody, are fundamental and cannot be fixed by amendments. Senator Mullica has expressed shared concerns about the bill, and I hope the committee will join him in prioritizing parental rights. Please vote "no" on HB25-1312 to protect our community's values. Thank you for considering my testimony. Sincerely, Alex Ruiz Thornton, CO, 80229
Elliott Silvers Against themselves	I am writing as a very concerned parent. I believe this proposed legislation will have many unintended consequences. There are many things including medication, drinking, tattoos, voting etc that we do not allow children to do because they are not fully developed. They are not ready to make decisions of this magnitude alone. There are two distinct genders that we are born with. Children should not be making life altering decisions because they feel differently than other kids. This bill is very vague and should not be passed. We need to protect the rights of families and religious institutions against the pushing of trans ideology. Thank you for considering.
Lorae Kinseth Against	I urge all voting members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill is a direct attack on religious freedom, free speech, and parental rights. Children are the precious responsibility of their parents, not the property of the state,

themselves	subject to every extreme political whim of those in power. The people have elected you to represent and fight for our families. If you take that charge at all seriously, you will refuse to pander to extremism here. This bill flies in the face of science, common sense, and love. It poses as compassion, but in truth is cruel and without conscience, failing to protect or care for the people it claims to want to help. I implore you in the strongest of terms to vote with your full heart and mind employed, and reject this Orwellian bill.
Nadia Kudo Against themselves	Stand Against This Bill – Protect Our Children and Families! This bill will have devastating effects on my stepdaughter's journey of self-discovery. She is still exploring who she is, and when she is with us, she feels safe to express herself. But this legislation will make it harder for her to navigate her identity, increasing confusion instead of providing clarity. Laws governing transgender and identity issues should support young people—not pressure them into decisions with legal consequences before they are truly ready. Let our youth find their own path without forced commitments or parental interference being punished. They already carry enough emotional weight without lawmakers adding more complications. We still have a chance to allow them to become who they truly are—without unnecessary legal restrictions defining their choices. Defend Parental Rights—Stop This Bill! Parents know their children best. We witness their struggles, their triumphs, and their moments of uncertainty. We stand beside them, guiding them toward peace and self-acceptance. This bill would punish parents for listening to their instincts, for wanting the best for their children, and for standing by them through life's challenges. Naming a child is one of the deepest joys of parenthood—it is our privilege and our right to give our children a name, a home, and a life full of love. When a baby is born and we hear "It's a girl" or call them by their name for the first time, it is a profound, beautiful moment—not "deadnaming" or "misgendering." These terms do not belong in a loving relationship between a parent and child. We must fight for our right to raise our children with love and wisdom, free from governmental interference. Reject this bill and stand with families!
Christian Horstmann Against themselves	HB25-1312, Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals, criminalizes parents for calling their child by their birth name if their child wishes to be called by a different name because of confusion about their sex. This bill violates our religious liberty to teach our children (by calling them their birth name) that God created them beautifully and unchangeably in His image as either male or female (Genesis 1:7). It also violates our first amendment rights of free speech and compels us to say things we don't agree with (e.g. "chosen name" vs. birth name).

	This bill also prohibits public and charter schools from using school dress codes that are based on gender. Incredibly, it places the definitions of "misgendering" and "deadnaming" into the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. Free speech is taken away by requiring adults and businesses to use someone's "chosen name" or pronouns in public places of accommodation. HB25-1312 criminalizes parents, violates religious freedom, and parental rights! Please vote NO on this bad bill!
Jenny Harvey Against themselves	This bill is dangerous in many ways. It undermines the US Constitution which protects the direction of parents and families in the education of their children. It takes the roll of the loving parent and gives it to the child, who isn't mature enough to make major decisions that will affect their entire future. Parents are given by God to love, nurture, and PROTECT their children from such irreversible decisions such as changing genders. First of all, this isn't possible. It is proven to cause even more depression and suicidal tendencies. Secondly, it's advocating mutilation which cannot be undone. This is abusing, not caring and loving the child. They cannot understand the consequences this will have on their futures. This is why children have parents. They, not the state, are called by God to raise their children. If you take this bill to its logical conclusion, and children basically have control over their families and be taken away, what will happen to these children? Who will take them in? The most loving thing we can do as parents is to tell our children the truth. Helping them through these confusions in a loving way is not abuse. Ripping the family apart is. This will destroy not only the child, but our country as a whole. The next generation will be victims of our unwillingness to stand for truth. Please do not pass this bill. It will have devastating impacts for now and the future.
Teri Vela For themselves	My name is Teri Vela and I'm a resident of Aurora, Colorado, as well as a parent, and former lawyer. I'm writing to you in support of the Kelly Loving Act (KLA). I have a four year old daughter and I'm teaching her to be a good member of the world community. I want her to grow up in a state that respects and honors the differences in people, and to know that trans life deserves as much protection as any other life in Colorado. By defining "deadnaming" "misgendering" and "chosen name," as well as discriminatory practices around those terms, The KLA strengthens the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act in a way that allows young members of our community to be able to live their lives in schools, and with the support of parents and family. They would be able to name themselves, and dress themselves (with the help of the provisions regarding school dress codes) in a way that any other young person is encouraged to do. Access to the self in these ways is something that cis people often take for granted, and something that all Coloradans should be able to have.

	Please help to strengthen Colorado's laws and make this a community we can all be proud to live in. Sincerely, Teri Vela
Kevin Roberts Against themselves	As a parent of young children I am extremely disturbed by this bill. As a partner "I" and only "I" can decide what is best for my children. The state has absolutely no right to determine how I raise my children and what "beliefs" I decide to teach them or what name I decide to call them. This is an extreme infringement on my 1A rights and my parental rights. Vote no on this bill!
Trina Konrath Against themselves	I am opposed to HB25-1312. This is too extreme for Colorado. I am afraid this will lead to my First Amendment rights being taken away. I am asking you to represent me and please vote "no" on HB25-1312. Thank you!
Jordyn Marske For themselves	Dear Honorable Members of the Committee, My name is Jordyn Marske, and I write to you as a transgender woman and citizen of Colorado in strong support of HB25-1312, the Kelly Loving Act. This bill is about more than policy; it is a statement of our values as Coloradans. It affirms that transgender people, especially youth, deserve safety, dignity, and the freedom to live authentically. Naming this bill in honor of Kelly Loving, who was tragically murdered in the Club Q massacre on the eve of Trans Day of Remembrance in 2022, is a powerful reminder of the real-life stakes of this legislation. Kelly's murder was a devastating loss, but her spirit lives on in the fight for dignity, safety, and equity for transgender people. This bill embodies her values by addressing systemic harms that transgender people, especially youth, face daily. To honor her legacy, we must ensure that Colorado remains a place where trans people are not just tolerated but protected and empowered. As someone who struggled with gender dysphoria from a young age, I know firsthand how damaging it is to be denied the right to live authentically. It isolates you. It teaches you that who you are is something to be hidden, corrected, or erased. No child should have their identity weaponized by those seeking political gain. By recognizing deadnaming, misgendering, and threats to out gender-affirming care as coercive control in custody cases, this bill ensures courts prioritize the mental and

	emotional well-being of transgender youth. Forced misgendering is psychological abuse, and Colorado must affirm that families should be safe havens—not battlegrounds. It also prohibits Colorado courts from enforcing unjust, out-of-state laws that punish loving parents for supporting their child’s access to gender-affirming care. Additionally, the bill guarantees that all students can choose attire and names that align with their identity. As someone who attended a school with a gendered dress code, I know the toll it takes to be forced into a box that doesn’t fit. These are simple but deeply impactful and, even life-saving, measures that send a message to trans and nonbinary students: You belong here. We see you. We support you. And perhaps most crucially, HB25-1312 amends the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act to formally recognize deadnaming and misgendering as discriminatory acts in public accommodations. Words have power. When institutions repeatedly deny a person’s identity, it perpetuates stigma and harm. By classifying these acts as discrimination under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act we make it clear that transgender dignity is non-negotiable in public spaces. In a time when transgender rights are under unprecedented attack across the country, Colorado has the opportunity to lead with compassion, courage, and clarity. This bill will save lives. Studies show that affirming transgender youth reduces risks of suicide and fosters resilience. For those of us who’ve fought to be seen, this legislation is a beacon of hope. Passing HB25-1312 would send a powerful message, not only to trans Coloradans, but to the entire nation. A message that we will not be erased, silenced, or forced back into the shadows. I urge you to pass this bill, not only in memory of Kelly Loving, but in commitment to the future she fought for: a future where trans people can live safely, openly, and with joy. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Jordyn Marske
Faith Dean Against themselves	This bill egregiously violates the First Amendment rights of parents. Parents know and love their children best and should not be forced against their consciences to speak "truths" they do not affirm, nor be subject to discriminatory retaliation by family courts in decisions concerning custody and charges of abuse.

	The lack of clarity in this bill as it relates to public accommodation will only create confusion. The Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act already protects the rights of individuals and is robust enough without frivolous additional definitions.
Anne Lindsay Against themselves	I'm almost 70 but I remember being in high school, back then they weren't transing kids and no one committed suicide. That's what we're told, trans your kid or they'll commit suicide. Recent studies are showing kids have more suicidal ideation after surgeries. How many of us did things when we were young that we later regretted? I know I did, I think we all did, because we were kids, we didn't know better. Do you think these vulnerable kids understand the ramifications of what they're doing? Do they understand the health complications, the fact that they won't have sexual pleasure because you've mutilated their their genitals, just ask the de-transitioners, with their stories of health issues and regret. This should dispel the myth that people are born in the wrong body. They are not. Most kids grow out of gender dysphoria. These vulnerable kids would be better served dealing with their mental issues rather than fast tracking them into transition. The adults in the room need to stand up and say no to these cruel and barbaric practices. How about teaching kids from a young age to love honor and accept their bodies just the way they are, and that they're wonderfully made just the way they are? Vote no on house bill 1312.
Jerolyn Ochs Against themselves	Opposition Summary result in increased costs, reduced consumer pposition summary to Colorado House Bill 25-1312, which addresses protections for transgender individuals: Opposition Summary to Colorado HB25-1312: Colorado House Bill 25-1312, while intended to protect transgender individuals, raises significant concerns regarding parental rights, religious freedoms, and free speech. Critics argue that the bill could compel parents to affirm their child's gender identity or face potential custody challenges, labeling non-affirmation as "coercive control" . This provision may infringe upon parental authority and the right to guide their children's upbringing according to personal beliefs. Additionally, the bill's inclusion of "misgendering" and "deadnaming" as discriminatory acts in public accommodations could conflict with individuals' freedom of speech and religious convictions. I believe that this may force individuals

	and businesses to act against their deeply held beliefs under threat of legal repercussions . Furthermore, the bill's potential to classify non-affirmation as child abuse could lead to legal complications for parents navigating custody disputes, potentially weaponizing gender identity issues in family courts . While the intent is to safeguard transgender individuals, HB25-1312 may inadvertently undermine fundamental rights and freedoms, prompting calls for a more balanced approach that respects both individual protections and constitutional liberties.
Katie Gossett Against themselves	To members of the committee, I am a Colorado mother to 4 beautiful children, one of which came to us through the foster care system. I love them more than life and take my responsibility of raising them very seriously. My faith is a big part of my life, and my husband and I have chosen to raise these kids that God has blessed us with knowing the truths of the Bible. We recently became aware of this bill that will criminalize parents for raising their children to believe that God made no accidents when He formed them. We believe that every detail about our children- their hair color, eye color, personality, and yes, gender, was given to them on purpose by a loving God. The idea that the government could think it was their place to take children or punish parents for raising their children to take confidence in their God given gender is appalling. It's also unconstitutional. We are so grateful to live in a country that prioritizes freedom of religion. Please do not infringe on that right. Our country was founded on principals that kept government out of the role of micromanaging the morals or religions of families, and protecting their right to free speech (and freedoms to make up their minds about their own beliefs). No one is going to care more about my kids than I do. Please do not believe that a government that sees our children as a tax ID number would care more about their well being than their parent who held them as babies, nursed their wounds as toddlers, guided them in right and wrong as children, and gave them advice on adulthood has teenagers. Strong people are built by strong families. Please support Colorado families by not infringing on their right to raise their children as they see best. Please support our constitutional right to freedom of religion. Thank you, Katie Gossett
Natali Schiefelbein Against themselves	I would like to testify AGAINST HB25-1312 Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals. This Bill would undermine and strip all Coloradans of their Federal Constitutional Amendment 1 Rights stating that no law shall be made that "interferes

	with any religious practice" nor "that diminishes the freedom of speech." This Bill, if passed, will do both. Should this Bill pass, it would undermine the religious beliefs of not just one religion, but several – stripping Coloradans of the right to adhere to their own religious convictions free of punishment by the government. In like manner, if this Bill passes, every Coloradan – religious or not – would lose their freedom to speak freely of their convictions. This Bill places one segment of the population above the rest of the population and exposes those outside this group of people to unconstitutional ramifications for practicing their freedom to hold their own beliefs, even if they differ from others. This is a slippery slope to start down. Which of our constitutional rights and freedoms will be next? As your constituent and fellow Coloradan, I implore you to vote in line with our Federal Constitution and preserve our sacred right for religious and speech freedoms by voting AGAINST HB25-1312.
Jennifer Qualteri Against themselves	Here's a judicial argument in opposition Judicial Argument: Opposition to Colorado SB25-1312 on Constitutional Grounds I. Introduction Colorado's HB25-1312, titled "Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals," seeks to advance protections for transgender persons by addressing issues such as deadnaming, misgendering, and gender-affirming healthcare in child custody disputes and interstate legal contexts. While the bill's intent to protect vulnerable individuals is noted, it raises significant constitutional concerns. Specifically, it infringes on First Amendment free speech rights, undermines parental rights protected under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, and introduces vague standards that violate procedural due process. This argument asserts that HB25-1312 is unconstitutional and should be struck down to preserve fundamental liberties. II. First Amendment: Compelled Speech and Free Expression The First Amendment prohibits the government from compelling speech or restricting expression based on content. HB25-1312, by classifying "deadnaming" (using a person's birth name) and "misgendering" (using pronouns inconsistent with a person's gender identity) as forms of "coercive control" in child custody disputes, effectively compels parents to use specific names and pronouns to avoid adverse legal consequences, such as loss of custody. This constitutes compelled speech, as it

	forces individuals to express agreement with a particular ideological stance on gender identity. In <i>West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette</i> (1943), the Supreme Court held that the government cannot compel individuals to express beliefs they do not hold, striking down mandatory flag salutes. Similarly, in <i>Reed v. Town of Gilbert</i> (2015), the Court emphasized that content-based restrictions on speech such as penalizing specific terms like a birth name are subject to strict scrutiny, requiring the government to prove a compelling interest and narrow tailoring. HB25-1312 fails this test. While protecting transgender individuals is a legitimate interest, the bill's broad mandate to regulate private speech between parents and children is neither narrowly tailored nor the least restrictive means to achieve its goal. Alternative measures, such as education or mediation, could address harm without infringing on speech. Moreover, the bill chills free expression by creating a legal penalty for parents who, based on personal or religious convictions, choose not to affirm a child's gender identity. The bill "labels 'deadnaming' and 'misgendering' as coercive control... potentially costing parents custody for using incorrect pronouns". This punitive approach risks silencing dissenting views, violating the First Amendment's protection of controversial or unpopular speech, as affirmed in <i>Texas v. Johnson</i> (1989). III. Fourteenth Amendment: Parental Rights and Substantive Due Process The Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects the fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing and care of their children, as established in <i>Troxel v. Granville</i> (2000) and <i>Pierce v. Society of Sisters</i> (1925). HB25-1312 undermines this right by allowing courts to consider a parent's refusal to affirm a child's gender identity through deadnaming or misgendering as evidence of "coercive control" when determining custody. This provision effectively penalizes parents for exercising their constitutional prerogative to guide their child's moral and psychological development according to their beliefs. In <i>Troxel</i>, the Supreme Court invalidated a law granting visitation rights to non-parents over parental objections, citing the "fundamental right of parents to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control of their children." HB25-1312 similarly intrudes on parental autonomy by prioritizing a state-imposed ideology over a parent's judgment about their child's "HB25-1312 sets a dangerous precedent: affirm state ideology, or lose your child". By threatening custody loss for non-affirmation, the bill coerces parents into relinquishing their constitutional role, violating substantive due process.

	Furthermore, the bill's provision shielding gender-affirming healthcare decisions from out-of-state laws interferes with parental rights by limiting a parent's ability to challenge such decisions in jurisdictions with differing legal standards. This extraterritorial effect undermines the fundamental right to parent across state lines, as recognized in <i>Saenz v. Roe</i> (1999), which protects interstate familial relationships. IV. Procedural Due Process: Vagueness and Arbitrary Enforcement The Due Process Clause also requires laws to provide clear notice of prohibited conduct and prevent arbitrary enforcement. HB25-1312's definition of "coercive control" as including deadnaming, misgendering, or threatening to disclose gender-affirming healthcare is impermissibly vague. The terms "deadnaming" and "misgendering" lack precise legal definitions, leaving parents uncertain about what speech or actions might trigger custody consequences. For example, does an inadvertent use of a birth name constitute coercive control, or must it be intentional? The bill's ambiguity fails to provide "fair warning," as required under <i>Grayned v. City of Rockford</i> (1972). Additionally, the bill vests courts with broad discretion to interpret these terms, risking arbitrary or biased enforcement. In <i>Johnson v. United States</i> (2015), the Supreme Court struck down a law for vagueness when it allowed subjective judicial interpretations of criminal conduct. Similarly, HB25-1312's reliance on subjective judicial determinations of "coercive control" invites inconsistent application, particularly in emotionally charged custody disputes. The bill as "an assault on reality" that compels affirmation of "personal choice rather than biology", suggesting public perception of its overreach and lack of clarity. VI. Conclusion Colorado's HB25-1312, while aimed at protecting transgender individuals, crosses constitutional boundaries by compelling speech, eroding parental rights, and imposing vague standards that invite arbitrary enforcement. The bill's classification of deadnaming and misgendering as coercive control violates the First Amendment's prohibition on compelled speech and chills free expression. Its interference with parental decision-making contravenes the Fourteenth Amendment's protection of family autonomy. And its ambiguous terms fail to satisfy due process requirements. The bill "rips families apart to push ideology", threatening the delicate balance of individual liberties.

	This is a waste of tax payer money because the court should declare HB25-1312 unconstitutional, ensuring that Colorado's pursuit of equality does not come at the expense of fundamental rights.
Katrina Wright Against themselves	Dear Senate Judiciary Committee, Please, please, please do not pass this bill that attacks my right to free speech here in the state of Colorado! As a Christian, I believe in the Biblical view of male and female and should this bill pass, it would infringe upon my religious liberty. Parents carefully and lovingly bestow names upon their children when they are born. Expanding the definition of "coercive control" by including terms such as "misgendering" and "deadnaming," not only berates one of the initial acts of parenting, but infringes upon the rights of every person in a public setting. Countless studies have shown that the basis of any healthy and functioning society is the family unit and infringing on parental, God-given rights does nothing to help our communities thrive. Please take your responsibility as elected officials seriously with regards to this bill and the ramifications that it would have not only for the current generation, but for future generations of Coloradans and vote "NO!" Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Katrina Wright
Brita Fay Against themselves	The reasons children can identify as LGBTQ+ are complex, and often involve families. https://changedmovement.com/childhoodstories is full of fascinating stories. I recommend a visit to the site. I questioned my own gender as a child. In hindsight, I'm exceedingly grateful that adults didn't relabel my questions/doubts as my identity. Views on one's own gender can change over time and with experiences, and a "one-size-fits-all" law could cause severe harm to a child's development.

	I recommend this health topic be treated with the same parental involvement as other health topics, like vaccines, which allow parents to legally opt-out. With vaccines, parents are provided education and legal agreement, and take responsibility for any consequences that may arise from the health decision. We don't allow 13-year-olds to drive, 16-year-olds to smoke, or 18-year-olds to drink alcohol or rent a car...because we understand from science that their brains are likely not yet developed enough handle these situations appropriately and make mature decisions. Insurance companies track data on brain development and decision--making, and that it's much more dangerous to put a 16-year-old boy behind the wheel than a 16-year-old girl. Yet this "one-size-fits-all" law would allow young children to permanently alter their bodies for their entire lives, bullying parents if they hold a differing opinion? If my child believes they are a pirate and announces it at school, it would be preposterous to force the parents to agree to gouge out an eye and cut off one leg. Yet this law is no different. "A tail that believes it's a leg doesn't make it a leg." Abraham Lincoln I thank you for your care for so many people. Brita Fay
Stephanie Silvers Against themselves	It is my sincere prayer and demand that the elected officials in the the State of Colorado uphold the rights of parents to raise their children according to their religious beliefs and practices. When a child is under the age of 18, it is the duty of the family to raise that child in a manner reflective of culture, belief, and practice. A minor cannot consent to sex with an adult nor can they get a tattoo (without PARENTAL consent) or consume drugs or alcohol. My child has an autoimmune disease and because he is a minor, we cannot even set up an online profile to receive his necessary medication because we as his parents are not the patient and HE cannot CONSENT to his own MEDICAL TREATMENT as a 13 year old. Revoking this right of parents is denying a basic freedom. Furthermore, the separation of church and state as outlined in the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" is being drastically threatened. To say educational institutions must not impose a gender specific dress code and must acknowledge a preferred pronoun goes against the belief of Christians and Christian organizations. You must uphold the rights of all

	Americans. Not simply the loudest minority. As elected officials, your job is to protect the freedom of all Coloradans. I demand you represent fairly. Vote NO on this Bill.
Alexandria Stockton Against themselves	As a former English teacher, current parent, and lifelong resident of the great state of Colorado, I am urging you to not pass this heinous bill. Government has no place in determining the manner in which a child is educated and affirmed at home. Parents must be trusted to nurture their children according to their personal beliefs as well as teach children to regard and respect others as they desire to be regarded and respected. This is not a bill that supports freedom. It undermines a parent's rights and responsibility. It also empowers educators in a way that they have no business being empowered, and I say that having taught for nearly 15 years. It was my job as an educator to challenge children to think critically and to test boundaries in a loving environment. It was not my role to undermine parents nor to affirm children who were confused or experimenting. It was my job to partner with parents, not treat them as the enemy as this bill will encourage. Just as I would never give a child who is curious about nicotine a cigarette or a shot of tequila who was interested in drinking, it is not my role to encourage a child regarding their desire or curiosity when it comes to gender and sex, and it is certainly not my role to encourage such thoughts at an age where these thoughts would only come to pass, having been implanted there by educators and trusted adults. Parents know what is best for their children. I am familiar with our foster system, and it amazes me the children who go back into homes that are abusive or to parents who struggle with addiction because the courts believe that, regardless of the situation, a child is best nurtured by their biological parents. How is it not the same with gender confusion? As with any substance, children should be nurtured in their homes and educated academically at school until they are of a proper age to make educated decision decisions that could impact them lifelong. For these reasons, I am in opposition of this bill.
William Beichley Against themselves	I am a father of a 5 year old son who co-parents and am against this bill on so many levels. Parenting decisions should rely on the parents and only the parents. Furthermore making a misgendering of someone in public a discriminatory act is not something that is reasonable. It can already be difficult in our current landscape to tell if someone is a certain way or the other let alone know which they prefer to be called. This bill further separates people into smaller groups instead of calling us what we all identify as; human, created by God, male and female. Do not pollute our law system with further classification and groupings. This is against the majority of the population that they can be now held accountable for trying to know, and operate in the minuscule definitions and classifications you put forth. Keep our kids our kids, not the governments, and live peaceably amongst all men as possible
Jenna Small Against themselves	I am your constituent and, as a parent and person of faith, I am deeply troubled by HB1312. This bill undermines parental rights, compel speech in a way that violates the First Amendment, and push sensitive conversations away from families and into the hands of the state. I believe parents, not the government, are best equipped to guide their children through important issues. These bills ignore that truth. I respectfully urge you to vote NO on this measure and protect both families and freedoms in Colorado.

	Sincerely, Jenna Small
Alicia Romero Against themselves	Dear Chairperson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I respectfully submit this written testimony in opposition to HB25-1312, titled the "Kelly Loving Act." While I fully support protecting all individuals from discrimination and harm, this legislation represents a deeply troubling shift away from parental rights and family autonomy, and toward state overreach into the private, personal decisions of families. Parental Rights Must Be Respected and Protected. Parents—not the government—know their children best. They are the ones who nurture, protect, and guide their children every day. HB25-1312 sends the message that the state is better equipped than parents to determine what is in a child's best interest—particularly when it comes to sensitive issues like gender identity and medical decision-making. This is a dangerous precedent that undermines centuries of legal tradition affirming the primacy of parental rights in child-rearing. Also, the long-term effects of gender-affirming treatments on minors are still a subject of active scientific debate, with some countries halting or restricting these procedures for youth pending further research. For a parent to question, delay, or decline such interventions should not be construed as discriminatory or abusive—it should be seen as part of the natural, protected duty of care that parents provide. This bill is a direct threat to family integrity and honest dialogue and would place parents in jeopardy of losing custody or being labeled as abusive for holding a differing viewpoint, asking questions, or seeking to delay irreversible medical procedures until their child reaches a more mature developmental stage. What HB25-1312 calls "coercive control" may, in reality, be a loving parent's effort to protect their child, weigh complex medical information, or explore alternative paths that don't involve life-altering changes. This bill dictates medical care and without years of scientific data proving that it is even a safe decision to be made for children. In reality, much of the scientific data out there proves that it does the opposite for the physical and mental health of the child. Our children should not be used as pawns in the political games of adults. It is not the role of the government to punish parents for caution, disagreement, or concern. Elevating the state's authority above that of parents in such deeply personal matters violates the sacred trust between families and the government and replaces parental love and wisdom with bureaucracy and ideology. HB25-1312 is a blatant OVERREACH OF THE GOVERNMENT INTO FAMILY LIFE and expands the role of the state far beyond protecting children from genuine abuse or neglect. It assumes a level of authority that intrudes into everyday parenting decisions and moral beliefs. Families who do not conform to a specific viewpoint on

	gender identity could face scrutiny, legal consequences, and the erosion of their rights—simply for parenting in line with their conscience and deeply held values. This is not the role of government. The government’s job is to protect families, not to divide them. To support children, not to override the parents who love and raise them. Every parent wants what’s best for their child—and that looks different in every family. To presume that the government knows better than parents in these intimate decisions is not only misguided, but also a GROSS VIOLATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS. HB25-1312 goes too far. I urge you to vote NO and uphold the rights of Colorado parents to raise, support, and protect their children without fear of punishment or interference. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration. Respectfully, Alicia Romero
Gustavo Michel Against himself	Children are not mature enough to make life alternating decisions that result in permanent consequences. If a 10 year old can't get a tattoo, can't vote, can't smoke, can't drink alcohol, can't drive a car, can't join the military, but is allowed to transition to the other gender? It's ridiculous. Only after the age of 18 as a legal adult should an individual make life alternating decisions. Not as an under developed minor.
Garrett Stockton Against himself	To the Senate Judiciary Committee,&7. I have lived in Colorado my entire life, graduated from CSU, and am raising three children in Northern Colorado. I love this state and have always admired how it supports the word of the people. With this current bill, I am asking that you hear the voices of the people, mine included, when we ask you to oppose this bill. I believe that the content of this bill is directly in opposition to what our forefathers and nation stand for. It is not the right of the government to dictate how a child is raised or affirmed, and it is also not the power of the government to teach children about sexual orientation or gender preferences. To take away rights of parents and instead place it in the power of the government and educators is heinous and wrong. This bill focuses on the sexualization of children. Children should be taught to learn, grow, and interact with the world around them, and something as intimate as gender should not be explored at such an early age or in the classroom. That is up to parents. If a child, once they have reached maturity, decides that they want to live a certain way, though I do not agree with it, so be it. But this is not something that should be inflicted on children in elementary, middle, or even high school. A legal name is given by a parent because they are the provider and ultimate support system of a child. It is not within the rights of a child or any other adult to strip that

	from a parent. The act of misgendering or deadnaming is not worthy of a parent losing their rights to their child. This is heinous and ridiculous on its face. I am urging you to see this bill for what it is and to vote against it. Thank you.
Brian Hochstein Against themselves	No child should be taken from their parents for not catering to a mental disorder! Mental disorders can and must be overcome and not be treated as a crutch! This bill is an egregious overstep by a government entity and MUST be stopped as it will cause undue harm to parents and children alike!
Brenda Burkett Against themselves	This bill would violate the rights of parents to direct the care of MINOR children. This bill does not meaningfully address in any form the mental state of the child that could lead to long-term consequences. I urge you to withdraw this bill.
Julia Brown Against themselves	I am writing in opposition of HB25-1312 and urge you to vote no. Putting aside the fact that this bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday while invoking Rule 16 to squash any opposition debate, the bill in and of itself is extreme state overreach with regards to family matters and free speech. Parents have the sole right, responsibility and the best knowledge on how to raise their children. We should not allow our government to step in between a parent and their child, especially when it comes to serious medical decisions. Also, the bill's broad definition of coercive control includes deadnaming and misgendering which could lead to subjective interpretations that might be used to limit free speech. For these reasons and many more, I urge you to stand up for Coloradans and vote NO on HB25-1312. Thank you for your time and consideration. Julia Brown
Melinda McConnell Against themselves	It's one thing for an 18 year old out of the house on their own to choose to legally change genders. But a minor? I can't buy vodka for my minor child, but I'd have to be forced to permanently alter their gender if they asked me to?

	There's a reason 13 year olds can't drive. There's a reason 15 year olds don't get married. Heck, a 17 year old can't rent a Ford Focus at Avis but can definitely decide to change genders without parental permission? They are youth who aren't always capable of understanding short-term or long-term consequences of decisions. The adults in the room need to be better and support and love those youth until they are mature enough to make such a decision independent of internal or external pressure. It's called parenting and mentoring. I'm so tired of the loud, fringe special interests of the MAGA and Democratic parties in this country stealing the ability for the compassionate, civil and sane people to live, work, worship and parent without all the threats and fear. The vast majority of us want to raise our children to be kind, considerate, thoughtful and responsible contributors to humanity in the short time we are here. Can the left and right fringes let us?
Jennifer Wood Against themselves	I am "just" a citizen of this beautiful state. I want to make sure that my family's and friends' voices are heard regarding HB25-1312. This bill is an absolute, unequivocal, unmitigated abomination. In my mind, there are two issues at play here: First, this bill furthers a destructive ideology that is at war with reality. There are only two genders; how someone may feel does not change that. To argue otherwise is to reject not only the obvious facts of reality, but also the extremely clear Word of God. This demonic charade must now end. And second, this measure would bind the consciences of our fellow citizens like my Bible-believing friends and family who affirm the Word of God, but could be punished for following their personal beliefs in not affirming the gender-confused insanity permeating our society. This is a clear violation of the freedom of speech, one of our nation's most hallowed tenets, the bedrock of a republic created by the worldview that all men are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." This bill, cloaked under emotional cliches, is a violent tyranny against that God-given right to free speech. As a follower of Christ, I must rise in the best way I can to oppose this, because I love God, and because I love my neighbors. I am infertile. It took 10 years to start my family. I did not go through 10 years of pain and suffering just to see my son grow up in such an evil state of affairs. I do not want to see the freedoms fought for sacrificed on the altar of a counter and false religions whose perversion demands the undermining of all we hold dear. This isn't just about

	differing perspectives on gender dysphoria; it's about our fundamental, God-given right to speak our minds, hearts, and consciences freely. Therefore, if this bill becomes law, I will not comply with it in any way, shape or form. While I am no David or Nehemiah, I am bound to follow their mighty examples to stand against the Goliaths and Sanballatts of my own day. If this opposition comes before me, I will stand against it – and then keep standing in every way I can, while exhorting others to do the same. I pray it will not come to that. We need you and your colleagues who still believe in sanity and liberty to fight for us now. Stand for us! For I believe that in the years to come, those who do and do not will be remembered.
Scott Matheson Against himself	Please do not approve this bill. It is contrary to our family's deeply held Biblical beliefs in that it takes away my fundamental right as a parent to raise my children and gives this right to the state. We should be looking for ways to reduce the oversight of government, not increase this intrusion. We will be praying that God gives you His wisdom on this issue.
Kathy Svenson Against himself	I am testifying that there are 3 reasons this bill is not needed: 1) First, a Bill is needed to STOP TEACHERS FROM LYING TO KIDS in their younger years that boys can become girls or visa versa. Then the few who WISH they were the opposite sex will go on with their lives and be GLAD when their body becomes the sex that biology has evidenced. 2) During the HEARINGS allow hearings of the many testimonies of transgendered people WHO NOW REALIZE WHAT A MISTAKE IT WAS to accept hormones and operations. THIS is the 'child abuse' that you should be making Bills to stop. 3) Transgendered kids already have the same rights and protections any child has. Thank you for listening. KathySvenson1@hotmail.com
Graceann Pittner Against himself	I am against this bill because I believe it negates a parent's responsibility for their child. I have been a teacher of middle and high school aged kids for 30 years and I realize that adolescents entering puberty often have a lot of confusion and conflict as they navigate this time in their lives. They do not always know what is good for them and often rebel against the authority of adults. They do not have the mental maturity to navigate something as serious as gender dysphoria which is a real psychological condition. This bill could cause irreparable harm to a child by leading them to believe things that might not be true and taking them out of the care of their parents who know the child better than anyone else. My brother-in-law- who has a PhD in psychology and who has worked with children for years believes encouraging children to make decisions of such consequence can be very dangerous to their mental and even physical health if they should move forward with medical transitions that they may later regret. The best scenario is to encourage children to work with their parents and licensed professionals to address any issues of gender dysphoria

	and hold off making any medical decision until the child reaches the age of 25 when their brain development is complete. This bill is dangerous and irrational and only takes advantage of vulnerable young people by people who do not know them as their family does. Parents have to give permission for a child to take medication at school, yet you want to take their responsibility away from them in a dangerous situation like this. Unbelievable!
Kinsey Ringenberg Against themselves	My name is Kinsey Ringenberg. I am a Colorado native and mom of three kids. I met my husband, also a Colorado native, at Colorado State University. I received my bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies and then went to the University of Colorado Health Science Center and received my master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies. In 2022, I stepped away from my career to care for one of my kids, who received an autism diagnosis at 10 years old. Before that, I had 13 years of experience working as a primary care provider in pediatric medicine. During that experience, I walked alongside families as they faced various challenges. It wasn't until more recently (in the past 10 years) that I began to see a significant increase in anxiety and depression. Shortly after that trend developed, I began to see a rise in transgender identification and gender dysphoria. As I provided care for families with teens, I would often see a new look, new interests, or a new attitude develop from visit to visit. I saw this type of behavior with transgender kids as well, but it manifested with new pronoun preferences and gender identity changes from visit to visit. I noticed that when they were referred to mental health or gender care, the underlying mental health diagnoses, such as anxiety and depression, were sometimes inadequately addressed while the gender identity care became the priority. It seemed like instead of letting kids develop and change their identity over time, which is the natural course of adolescence, there was a rush placed on medical intervention rather than working on developing healthy coping skills. I think it is vital for this generation of kids and parents to slow down and provide support rather than speed up and intervene with medical care that is often irreversible. One critical fact that is important to understand when working with teens is that their frontal lobe, the part of their brain responsible for logic and reasoning, does not fully develop until they are 25 years old. Instead, they are governed by their amygdala, which leads to more emotional and impulsive behavior. They are constantly exploring their sense of self, which seems to change on a daily, weekly, or yearly basis during those years as a part of age-appropriate normal adolescent development. They are much more likely to make impulsive decisions based on emotion rather than decisions grounded in logic. While we have to accept this fact as a normal part of development, we also have to guide them in slowing down the decision-making process and help them navigate the balance of emotions, logic, and sound reasoning.

	Depending on the study you use, there are different statistics on the number of children who outgrow gender dysphoria during adolescence and return to identify with their biological sex. On the low end, that number is still above 50%, and on the high end, it could be over 80% of kids who experience a reversal in their gender dysphoria. During this period of rapid change and development in adolescents, removing them from their home is unlikely to lead to better outcomes. They need the stability of their parents, who have been their caregivers since birth, not a tumultuous path of social service intervention and removal from their home. We are pathologizing the normal parent-teen conflict surrounding core identity development and allowing kids and other adults to weaponize disagreement. In my 13 years of working with parents and kids, many of whom identified as transgender, there was not a single case where I thought a kid would be better off without their parents, even if there was some measure of disagreement about their gender identity. Parents and kids need time, support, and guidance when walking a complicated path, not a system working against them. Please vote NO on HB25-1312 Sincerely, Kinsey Ringenberg, PAC, MPAS
Lily Ekberg Against themselves	Hello, my name is Lily Ekberg. I am writing this testimony to share my story and show my support for every parent in the state of Colorado. I transitioned from female to male in my late teens due to pressure and influence from my therapist and social media. I was convinced that I was born in the wrong body. Without asking me any questions or actually diagnosing me with gender dysphoria, I was prescribed testosterone for a year. I did not know at the time that I was suffering deeply with undiagnosed trauma and other mental health issues that led to my lack of identity. A year after starting hormone replacement therapy, I stopped. I had mental breakdown after mental breakdown realizing that transitioning made me feel even more lost. If I had kept going with my transition, I would not be alive today. I write this to let everyone know that if it weren't for my wonderful parents asking me questions, explaining to me how hormone replacement could severely impact my health, and helping me to make a fully informed decision, I would not be able to carry the child I currently am right now and living a much happier life today. Parents must be able to have a say when it comes to these deeply important medical decisions for their children. It is appalling that we are having to debate this in today's society. We have no full grasp on the mental and physical ramifications of children going on hormones and having these procedures done. The studies that have been done are not in favor of children medically transitioning and have been silenced. I am living proof that trying to transition at a young age nearly made me take my own life and I am not alone. I pray to Jesus that these children do not have to go through what I and many other detransitioners have faced. Let kids be kids, and I beg of you to not take parental rights from parents who are just simply asking their kids questions and trying to guide them to the truth. God bless everyone and every parent and child facing this threat in this country. Thank you.

Benjamin Barrett Against himself	I have been in a child custody battle with my eldest son's mom on three different occasions and we are currently on our fourth time after his mother relocated to California. We have had a CFI twice now, and the child is never truly given a voice here in Colorado when it comes to respect of where they would like to live. It would seem that since the emphasis now seems to be to take away custodial power and give it to the state seems to continue to undermine parental rights and take voices away from parents and children alike no longer making it a decision that's in the best interest of families but the contrary. Schools as well need to be focused on education, and teaching our children instead of being forced to continue to jump through more hoops and obstacles that create an already tough and evolving job more difficult. We need to be unifying and not separating the classroom and at home. Giving power back to parents and creating less confusing situations for our children. The psychological effect of these transgender emphasis and practices don't only harm the child involved but the children around that child. Creating a superficial and pseudo society in which the child often grows out of and causes more mental harm than trying to reinforce unnatural behavior in such crucial years of development. The children who have to put up with this fantasy suffer as well. Being forced to call what is true false in order to codify the single individual at the expense of the truth or reality of the multitude. This unstable behavior and societal practice doesn't create inclusion but separation with highlighting differences and enforcing subjective impulse to objective longstanding truth. Kids must be allowed to focus on academics when in academic places with teachers focused on teaching, not informing, and parents focused on raising society's next generation, not the government who still can't solve housing, drugs, or immigration. More pressure and power given to the government seems to put more burdens on the courts and less power to educators and parents.
Bridget Thiel Against himself	Hello, Colorado Senators, Please oppose Bill HB25-1312. Children need to grow up and finish developing before making such a life-changing decision such as changing gender. The Almighty God made two genders - male and female. There are minimum ages set for when people can drive a vehicle, get a tattoo, buy tobacco, own a gun, drink alcohol, vote, buy a lottery ticket, or rent a car. Yet, this bill supports people of young ages getting encouragement to change from a boy to a girl or a girl to a boy, and it criminalizes adults who try to guide children against making such a decision. That makes no sense! There should be a minimum age set before people can make such a major decision such as changing gender. And that minimum age should be set in adulthood (after age 18). Please vote against this bill. Thank you.
Leif Sigstedt Against himself	This is another bill that attempts to strip parents of their already dwindling parental rights. There couldn't really be a more authoritarian way of telling people that if they don't subscribe to the same manner of thinking as the bill's author, then they deserve to have their children taken away and get sent to prison. That isn't justice, it's madness. I doubt that even 10% of people would actually agree with this being a

	good idea. I've personally seen the result of similar (albeit less extreme) bills in other states, and they're nothing but trouble, and will no doubt be abused by parents in custody battles to attack the other parent. This will only end up hurting the children involved. Please consider joining me and everyone I know in opposing this terrible bill by voting NO.
Robin Thompson Against themselves	Please do not pass this bill. God makes no mistakes in His creation. Parents have dominion over their children. I find it ironic that people who would support the murder of an unborn child at the mother's choice would not support a parent's choice as to how to handle gender issues. It is unconstitutional overreach and extremely harmful to children and society. Parents have the right to guide their children that God chose for them. The government has no business or right to be involved in these matters.
Sarah Cassel Against themselves	This bill attacks parental rights, religious freedom, and the free speech of Coloradans. I ask you to please reconsider. It isn't even logical to think that children can make this kind of decision. We do not allow children to choose without supervision and guidance the clothes that they wear, the food that they eat, the places that they go. Children certainly cannot buy a firearm or ammunition, but this bill expects children to make major decisions that would very likely involve hormones and even surgery. These changes can interrupt or change irrevocably the child's body and its natural functions and not only that, this bill criminalize parents for giving what nature cries out for them to provide - guidance! This bill is unwise. It is illogical. It denies science. It denies nature. It is unjust. It should not be made into law.
Jennifer Churchfield Against themselves	Dear Senate Committee members- I am writing in opposition to HB25-1312 and urge you to vote no. First, it is crucial to highlight the deeply concerning manner in which this bill was rushed through the House. It was introduced on a Sunday, leveraging Rule 16 to stifle debate and silence opposition. This lack of transparency and disregard for due process should raise serious concerns about the bill's intentions and the long-term consequences for our state. At its core, HB25-1312 represents an extreme overreach by the state into deeply personal family matters. It is a fundamental principle that parents have the sole right and responsibility to make decisions for their children, particularly when it comes to serious and life-altering matters such as medical treatments. The state should not be inserting itself into this sacred role. Parents, not government officials, are best equipped to understand and navigate their children's unique needs and circumstances. Moreover, the bill's expansive definition of "coercive control" raises alarming concerns regarding free speech. Specifically, terms like "deadnaming" and "misgendering" could be interpreted so broadly that even innocent conversations or expressions of personal beliefs could be penalized. Such vagueness opens the door

	to subjective interpretations that could lead to the erosion of free speech rights and create a chilling effect where Coloradans are afraid to speak openly about important issues. Allowing this bill to pass would set a dangerous precedent where government encroaches on family dynamics and individual freedoms. We must be vigilant in protecting both parental rights and free speech from unnecessary state interference. For these reasons, and many others, I strongly urge you to stand with Coloradans who value personal liberty and family autonomy by voting NO on HB25-1312. Thank you for your time- Jennifer Churchfield, Senate District 26 Past President, Cherry Creek Schools Board of Education
Caitlin Von Thun Against themselves	I am asking and begging you to not pass this bill. As a parent and a citizen of the United States I have the right to raise my children as I see fit. If I choose to raise my child as a biological male or female I should not be in jeopardy of losing my child because of the states opinion on what my child needs. My religious beliefs and desires in raising my child are a choice we should be able to make and are constitutionally allowed to do so. Furthermore, studies have shown that 98% of children who desire to transition eventually go back to their original gender as they get older. I do not want to encourage medical or any kind of treatments that are extremely detrimental to young, growing bodies and could hinder them immensely in the future. The state coming in and forcing me to do this is not only ignoring medical advice but also harming my child in the name of helping them. This seems ignorant on legislators part because of biases rather than factual evidence. As a mom who spends every night with her kids, who birthed them and love them more than anyone else could. The state saying they know what is best is ridiculous and oversteps parental rights on so many levels, especially when the evidence against parents is who are charged for this "abuse" does not need to be substantiated. Please do not pass this bill.
Ray Venson For themselves	I don't know if these are read aloud during meetings, so I am writing what I would say if I was there in person.

	I wanted to add my voice to this discussion, as transgender boys and men such as myself are often forgotten when discussing these issues, and I want others out there to know they are not alone. I think a lot of the fear surrounding bills like this comes from the idea that somebody will make a mistake, or not be able to adjust well, and suddenly here come the pronoun police! You may see viral videos of trans people being aggressive about getting misgendered, but what you don't see is that usually this comes after the other person being intentionally rude over and over again. And yes, just like cisgender people, sometimes a trans person can also just be a jerk :P When it comes to strangers, nobody expects you to get it right the first time, every time. When it comes to someone close to you, nobody expects you to immediately be perfect and never call them the wrong name or pronouns ever again. That's not what this bill is about. It's about loving and respecting your kid enough to try. Try out a new name, try to see where they're coming from, try to understand, and try to understand that you may never really understand, and that's okay. Thank you for your time.
Amanda Peterson Against themselves	We the people have a right to raise our children as we see fit. God called us parents to our children, and that's what we will remain!
Loretta Huff Against themselves	My name is Loretta Huff. I have been a resident of Colorado for most of my life. I raised my children here and my watching my grandchildren grow up here. I urge you to vote "No" on House Bill 25-1312. It poses significant threats to parental rights, free speech, the well-being of Colorado families and religious freedom. HB 25-1312 redefines "coercive control" to include "deadnaming" and "misgendering" a child. This makes these actions grounds for losing custody in family court or through Child Protective Services. This bill effectively punishes parents for using their child's legal name and the pronouns aligned with their biological sex. This is wrong on so many levels. I have asked many people and so far, no one has said that growing up and going through puberty was a breeze. It is critical that parents have the ability to guide their children through confusing times. The bill risks stripping custody from caring parents when that relationship is most important. The bill also amends the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act to classify deadnaming and misgendering as discriminatory acts in public accommodations. This broad language threatens free speech. It makes expressions of personal or religious convictions into criminal acts. A parent, teacher, or business owner could face penalties for using biologically accurate pronouns or a legal name, even unintentionally. This overreach violates First Amendment protections. It sets a dangerous precedent for government-enforced speech. It threatens faith-based schools and organizations and individuals.

	The bill's supporters argue it protects transgender individuals, but it does so at the expense of fundamental rights. Parents who ask hard questions help their children work through important life decisions. HB 25-1312 would penalize such protective parenting, favoring ideological conformity over family autonomy. As a parent and grandparent, I know it is critical to support parental authority. The importance of free speech should not need to be explained to legislators. HB 25-1312 undermines both. I respectfully urge you to reject this bill. Protect Colorado by voting "No" on HB 25-1312. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Victoria Dusenbery Against themselves	Against HB25-1312 I oppose this bill for many reasons, This bill attacks parental rights, freedom of speech, and religious liberty. We as parents must stand together to protect our children and our God given human rights. Parents should not be threatened with child custody cases because of so called "dead naming, or "misgendering". The parents know what's best for their children. Children do not know what will destroy them mentally, psychologically, and physically years down the road, they need their parents guidance. These laws should not allow minors to make such life altering decisions by themselves without their parent involved. Even at school where we send children to be protected are being turned against parents. Parents should have full knowledge of whats going on with their children at school. Nothing should be kept secret or hidden from them. Schools should be a place of learning, not indulging in sexual desires of children or adults. They are children therefore cannot consent to such inappropriate sexual discussions with teachers, internet strangers, peers, school staff, or anyone. I ask you where is the line as educators? As government workers? As doctors? As parents? Parents have rights, children cannot consent to this perversion of their underdeveloped bodies and mental state. So yes I oppose this bill, I stand with you parents of Colorado. Protect the children, freedom of speech, and Religious liberty, just like the bills of rights and the thirty human rights God gave us. My prayers are with you all. God Bless.
Sean Cole Against themselves	To the Colorado Senate Committee: My name is Sean Cole, and I have been a resident of Colorado since 1986. I have a vested interest in the future of our great state, as both of my boys were born here, and my wife is a native. I am deeply grieved by HB25-1312 and urge you to vote against it. I am an evangelical Christian pastor and adjunct instructor at Colorado Christian University. I represent thousands across our state who are disturbed by the progressive direction the Democratic party has taken our state. Here are my brief reasons for you to vote against HB25-1312:

	(1) This bill is a direct assault on God's authoritative Law regarding male and female according to the Bible. Transgender ideology stands opposed to God's good design in His creating humans male and female. While you may not believe in God or accept the authority of the Bible, all people will stand before the living God on the Day of Judgment and give an account. As lawmakers, especially, you will have to give an account of how you voted and legislated according to God's eternal Law. (2) This bill hinders the Constitutional right of Colorado citizens to exercise the First Amendment to speak or use language freely. This bill imposes coercive repercussions for those who believe it is against their conscience to use pronouns or accept transgender ideology. (3) This bill infringes on the rights of parents to raise their children in the way they see fit, according to the dictates of their conscience and religious beliefs. So-called "gender-affirming care" exposes children to irreparable damage due to drugs and surgeries. This bill will also result in devastating custody battles as it opens the doors for the courts to possibly take away any child from their parent. (4) This bill infringes on the rights of charter schools and other religious institutions to determine dress code policies and language related to pronouns according to their own philosophies and procedures. (5) This bill ultimately provides the state of Colorado with too much overreach into the lives of parents, schools, and citizens to determine how they practice their religion, exercise freedom of speech, and how they want to raise their children. Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to repent of forcing Colorado citizens to accept a bill that will violate their consciences. For the sake of your eternal souls, which will stand before the living God, please vote against this bill.
Kelly Hegarty Against themselves	Dear Members of the Colorado Legislature, I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 25-1312. While the bill is presented as a measure to protect civil rights, in practice, it threatens fundamental parental rights and due process. HB25-1312 allows one parent to unilaterally declare a child's identity without independent verification, and weaponizes disagreement as a form of "abuse." Simply questioning labels, seeking additional support, or advocating a cautious approach could lead to a loss of parenting time or custody.

	Parenting should not be criminalized for thoughtful, good-faith efforts to guide and support a child through complex and deeply personal matters. HB25-1312 ignores the importance of parental involvement, open dialogue, and the need for careful consideration in sensitive family situations. It turns ideological conformity into a legal mandate. I urge you to reject HB25-1312. It undermines parental rights, silences diverse perspectives, and risks harming families rather than protecting them. We need laws that strengthen families, not divide them through fear and coercion. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Kelly Hegarty Durango CO La Plata County
Cherish Broady Against themselves	I have had the unique opportunity to walk through the struggle of gender identity confusion with my now 20-year-old daughter. When she turned 14, her life and emotions took a huge turn. She began to struggle with dark depression and anxiety. She was confused about her sexuality and identity. As her parents, we wanted her to know she was loved and accepted by us no matter what, but within that was a tension we had to balance. It was a struggle to balance what she was feeling with the reality that despite her confusion, there was an inherent truth that she was female, created by God to flourish in His great design for her. What we did was allow her to have her own beliefs while continuing to speak truth in love to her ie, you are beautiful; you were fearfully and wonderfully made; you are loved; you have value and purpose; you do not need to change who you are to be accepted or have meaning and purpose; God loves you and created you for a reason; you have a beautiful story to share with the world etc. After years of counseling and deep soul work, she was able to find the underlying issues that were the root of her confusion. Today, she is a healthy and happy woman who has found healing and freedom. She now tells us how grateful she is that we continued to speak truth and life to her. She was surrounded by affirmation from peers, friends, and other family members. She says the societal and peer pressure to change who she was was overwhelming. The healing she found was not overnight. It took about 5 years. She needed our stability and love to help her through a very difficult season in her life. We need to protect our children and teens from destroying their hormones, health, and lives when in confusing seasons. Please do not vote for this bill. My daughter's life could have been ruined if a bill like this existed 6 years ago.

	"House Bill 1312 undermines the foundational right of parents to raise their children according to the values and beliefs of their family. House Bill 1312 assumes the state is better suited than families to make personal decisions, which sets a dangerous precedent. When the government overrides parents, it weakens the family unit, something historically shown to correlate with poorer outcomes for children. It places bureaucrats and schools in a parental role they are neither trained nor authorized to occupy."
Brandon Edmunds Against himself	Dear distinguished members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on House Bill 25-1312. My name is Brandon Edmunds. I'm a husband and father of nine children, deeply committed to raising them by my Christian faith and the convictions it compels me to teach. This legislation, as currently drafted, would make it a crime for a parent to address a child by the name and pronouns that align with their birth sex—an act central to a parent's responsibility to guide, nurture, and instruct. Under HB 25-1312, such parental guidance could be construed as "coercive control," punishable by fines, imprisonment, or even loss of custody. As a father, I submit that no branch of government should have the power to criminalize biblical truth or to sever the sacred bond between parent and child. Proverbs 22:6 teaches us to "train up a child in the way he should go." This bill contradicts that wisdom and undermines the fundamental parental right to direct a child's upbringing. My Christian faith compels me to teach my children what Scripture affirms about God's design for humanity. In matters of conscience and conviction, I echo the words of Martin Luther before the Diet of Worms in 1521: "Here I stand before God; I can do no other. God help me Amen." Just as Luther would not recant what he believed Scripture taught, I cannot abandon my responsibility as a parent to speak truth lovingly and faithfully to my children. To force silence or penalize parents for doing so is to force us to choose between obedience to God and obedience to the state—an impossible dilemma that violates both our religious liberty and our parental rights.

	Allowing this bill to become law would inject fear and uncertainty into homes across Colorado. Consider a mother comforting her child who is confused about gender or a teacher—who is also a parent—struggling to navigate her convictions while fulfilling professional requirements. Under HB 25-1312, any of us could face criminal charges for simply speaking in a way that aligns with our beliefs about human identity. This is not just a legal issue, but a deeply personal one that affects the fabric of our families. This chilling effect will not protect children; it will traumatize families, drive parents into the courts, and deprive children of the stable, loving guidance they need. The potential harm this bill could cause is a matter of grave concern. I respectfully urge you to vote no on HB 25-1312. It fails to safeguard explicit exemptions allowing parents to exercise conscientious speech in the care and instruction of their children. It threatens religious liberty by exposing families to criminal sanctions for living out convictions sincerely held and rooted in Scripture, and it undermines the fundamental parental right to direct a child's welfare and education without fear of penalty. I pray that you will guard Colorado families' rights to raise their children in accordance with their faith and convictions. I am hopeful that you will make a decision that upholds these fundamental rights. May the Lord grant you wisdom, courage, and compassion as you deliberate. Respectfully submitted, Brandon Edmunds Brighton, Colorado
Kayla Anderson Against themselves	I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 25-1312. This legislation raises significant concerns regarding parental rights, religious freedom, and the role of government in family life. Politicians have no place interfering in the lives of OUR children. Rather than safeguarding their well-being, they are pushing harmful ideas that fuel confusion and mental health struggles. Children are TOO YOUNG to make life-altering decisions about their gender identity. From preschool through senior year, young people are still developing emotionally, mentally, and physically, and they should not be burdened with questions about changing their gender. Schools should be places of learning, not platforms for promoting ideologies that confuse and destabilize children during their formative years. Gender dysphoria is a serious mental health issue that requires compassionate

	and professional care, not encouragement or affirmation without critical oversight. Encouraging children to believe they can change their biological sex only deepens their confusion and can lead to lasting emotional harm. We must protect our children from this dangerous trend and focus instead on providing them with stability, truth, and real support as they grow. Religious Convictions: As a person of faith, I believe that God created humanity as MALE and FEMALE, as stated in Genesis 1:27: "God created man in His own image... male and female He created them." This belief is central to my faith and informs how I raise MY children, they are not the government's children. House Bill 25-1312 challenges this conviction by potentially penalizing parents who do not affirm a child's chosen gender identity, labeling such actions as "coercive control" in custody decisions . Parental Rights: The bill's provisions could lead to parents losing custody for referring to their children by their birth names or biological pronouns. This undermines the fundamental right of parents to make decisions in the best interest of THEIR children, based on their understanding, beliefs, and values. It is concerning that the state would intervene in such personal family matters, potentially overriding parental judgment and care. Educational Policies: This bill forces schools to allow students to choose dress codes based on their gender identity rather than their biological sex, and mandates the use of chosen names and pronouns. This directly conflicts with the deeply held beliefs of many families and educators, forcing them to act against their convictions. Issues of gender identity have no place in our schools. Teachers and counselors have no right encouraging children to question their biological reality. Schools should be focused on education — not promoting gender ideology or discussing topics like sex and gender identity with impressionable young minds. House Bill 25-1312 raises serious issues about religious liberty, parental rights, and government overreach. Politicians need to stay out of our children's lives. Instead of protecting our kids, they are promoting confusion and mental illness, making the problem worse, not better. I urge lawmakers to consider these concerns and oppose this bill to preserve the rights of families to raise their children according to their faith and conscience.
Deepak WILLIAMS Against himself	As an advocate for religious freedom and parental rights, I have spent the past 28 years benefiting from what the US and Colorado constitution offers to both visitors and residents of Colorado. That is why I am here today to express my support against House Bill 25- 1312, relating to , which makes it legal for courts to remove sexually confused children from their parents in Colorado.

	As an immigrant parent who would like to practice my faith without Government intervention to constrain my freedom, my family will be directly impacted by this harmful bill. Colorado has historically been a welcoming state for visitors and prospective immigrants like me from all faith and ethnic backgrounds who have been able to raise families for years based on their respective religious and ethnic belief systems. In closing, Colorado's continued status as a prime tourist and immigration destination is dependent upon it being a safe place to exercise freedom in raising families and rejecting this bill would be a great way to help ensure our state thrives. Therefore, I urge the committee to reject 25-1312. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Regards Deepak Williams
Stephen Leslie Against himself	Studies and medical experts consistently highlight the importance of careful, thorough assessment and counseling when it comes to children questioning their gender. While some children may experience gender dysphoria, many children will naturally grow out of such feelings as they mature. Research has shown that a significant percentage of children who experience gender dysphoria during childhood no longer identify as transgender in adulthood. Medical and psychological professionals warn that transitioning at a young age can have irreversible effects on a child's body and future well-being. Children lack the maturity and life experience to fully understand the permanent consequences of altering their gender. Decisions of this magnitude should be approached with caution, and the child's present and future well-being must be the top priority. I strongly oppose any legislation that seeks to criminalize the act of misgendering children. I believe in showing respect and kindness to all individuals, including those who struggle with their gender identity, but I also hold that parents have a fundamental responsibility and constitutional right to raise their children according to their own values and faith. As a Christian, I am called to love and guide my children with the principles of truth, compassion, and understanding. The Bible teaches us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image (Psalm 139:14), and I believe it is important for my children to understand their identity in a way that aligns with God's design.

	This bill could punish parents for expressing their views or guiding their children according to their faith and threatens not only parental rights but also religious freedoms. It undermines the ability of parents to engage in thoughtful, age-appropriate discussions with their children about complex issues like gender. Families should be free to make decisions about their children's well-being in accordance with their beliefs. I urge lawmakers to consider the long-term impact of such policies on parental rights, religious freedoms, and the well-being of families. No law should interfere with the sacred responsibility of parents to nurture and guide our children. In supporting biological gender, we model the importance of accepting and valuing the way God designed us. By doing so, we help our children build a strong foundation that will serve them well throughout their lives. I strongly oppose House Bill 25-1312. Stephen Leslie
Nancy Wiswell Against themselves	I, Nancy Wiswell, Respectfully, strongly urge a NO on HB25-1312. This bill, if passed, would define any use of "deadnaming, misgendering, or threatening to publish material related to an individual's gender-affirming health-care services as types of coercive control," and could be used by the courts in child custody cases to remove children from their parents. "HB25-1312 sets a dangerous precedent by punishing those who live out their biblical convictions," said Greg Schaller, Centennial Institute director. "Religious freedom doesn't end when someone disagrees with Scripture. The sacred rights of conscience, which is fundamental to the United States Constitution, guarantees that the state cannot interfere with the rights of parents to raise their children in a manner consistent with their faith," Schaller said. The bill further amends the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act to define deadnaming and misgendering as discriminatory acts punishable by the Colorado Civil Rights Division. "A government that claims to care for children while silencing parents and faith communities is not protecting liberty – it is directly violating it," said Schaller. "Our laws must reflect eternal truths; not passing ideologies." Here are just a few of the many concerns we have about HB 25-1312:

	• Allows Colorado courts to consider “deadnaming,” using a person’s name given at birth, and “misgendering,” using a person’s correct, biologically corresponding pronouns, when determining child custody cases. • Requires dress-coded public schools to allow children of either biological sex to choose between following the boys or girls dress code without their parent’s consent or guidance. Christian parents should not have to choose between their faith and public schools. • And defines “deadnaming” and “misgendering” as discriminatory acts under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. These provisions are nothing short of an attack on human dignity, people of faith, and anyone who questions the ever-changing cultural definitions of sexuality. Should this bill become law, it threatens the conscience rights of individuals, the relationship between parents and children, basic free speech rights for all, and will inevitably lead to conflict between church and state. As an elected representative for Colorado, this should be an unacceptable proposition for you, regardless of partisan commitments. Respectfully, Nancy Wiswell
Tiffani Queneau Against themselves	Dear Members of the Committee, My name is Tiffani Queneau, and I am a parent of two children living in Adams County. I’m writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I believe this bill poses a serious threat to parental rights and, more importantly, to the well-being of our future generations — including my own children. As parents, we have the fundamental right to raise our children according to the values we believe in. HB25-1312 undermines that right by granting the state undue influence over deeply personal family matters. This is an overreach of governmental authority, and it’s deeply concerning. Elected officials are chosen to represent the will of the people — not to strip away our rights and place them into the hands of the state. The notion that a government entity could interfere with a parent’s ability to guide and support their own child, or even threaten to separate families, is not only unjust — it is, quite frankly, alarming. There is ample neurological research showing that the human brain does not fully mature until around age 25. Yet this bill suggests affirming life-altering decisions in children who are far from that level of development. For context, a person can’t even rent a car until they’re 25 — yet we’re considering allowing decisions that could have permanent physical and psychological impacts far earlier. This is simply not responsible governance.

	I urge you to consider the real-life impact this bill could have on Colorado families. If passed, I fear it will drive many away from our state — families who simply want to retain their rights and raise their children in accordance with their beliefs. I respectfully ask that you vote No on HB25-1312. To any parents serving on this committee: please ask yourself how you would feel if someone else were making these critical decisions for your child. Sincerely, Tiffani Queneau
Lisa Jensen Against themselves	Please vote NO on HB1312. As a Coloradan who values freedom and family, I am alarmed by the direction this bill takes. It opens the door to compelled beliefs, restricts honest conversations, and limit a parent's right to know what is happening in their child's education or medical care. We can support all children without silencing or punishing people of faith, and without cutting parents out of the equation. Families deserve the right to raise their children according to their values and faith. Please stand with families and say NO to this bill. Thank you, Lisa Jensen Thornton, CO
Carrie Priday Against themselves	Dear Senator, I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 25–1312 known as the “Kelly Loving Act” which proposes significant changes to Colorado's legal framework concerning transgender individuals. While the intent may be to protect the rights of transgender individuals, I believe this bill poses serious concerns regarding parental rights, free speech, and the balance of constitutional freedoms.

	The bills provision would classify "misgendering" and "deadnaming" as forms of child abuse potentially influencing child custody decisions. This approach could infringe upon parents' rights to make decisions aligned with their values and beliefs regarding their children's upbringing. A parent guiding their child is not "coercive control." Furthermore, the bill would prohibit Colorado courts from complying with orders from other states, that mandate the removal of a child from a parent or guardian, who allows the child to receive gender-affirming healthcare services. This Could place Colorado in conflict with other states legal determinations concerning child welfare. Additionally, the bill would add "misgendering" and "deadnaming" to the Colorado Anti- discrimination Act, potentially compelling individuals and businesses to use names and pronouns that conflict their personal beliefs. This raises concerns about the protection of free- speech and religious freedom. While the bill is named in honor of Kelly Loving, a transgender individual tragically killed in the 2022 Club Q shooting, it is essential to consider the broader

	implications of such legislation. The focus should be on protecting ALL individuals from violence and discrimination without infringing upon the rights of others. I urge you to consider carefully the potential consequences of HB 25–13 12 and to prioritize protection of parental rights, free-speech, and the balance of constitutional freedoms in your decision making process. Thank you for attention to this matter. VOTE NO on HB25-1312. Carrie Priday Englewood, CO
Angela Many Against themselves	To legislators re HB25-1312: I cannot believe that this bill has even come out of committee. I cannot believe that our legislature is considering a bill so ridiculous, so harmful to Colorado parents and families, and so coercive parents and to those in the public sector who could be penalized for not telling a lie about gender. Parents named their child, and they know what sex he/she is. Making it 'coercive control' to call your child by the correct name and pronoun, and threatening parents with loss of custody for 'misnaming' should be far beyond the reach of a state and its legislators. This is state interference with the rights of parents, it should not be permitted, and there is no way that it can be justified. Requiring that schools and businesses cooperate in this lunacy is compelling people to say something that they know is not true. I don't think that it is legal to require people to lie. That is asking for lawsuits, and if this passes I hope that you get them. We are tired of our Colorado legislature and governor passing laws that interfere with the rights of its citizens. Please stop it. Start the return to commonsense and limited government by voting NO on HB25-1312.

James Powers Against himself	I remember a time when same sex proponents used to say something to the effect of, "All we want is the equal opportunity to live our lives without the interference of the government. How does it hurt you?". Well, now we know. Not only are those same people now trying to criminalize normal parental guidance and responsibility within their own families, but they are turning a deaf ear to the countless parents from all political spectrums on this issue. So much for "how does that hurt you". The rest of the world is recognizing that there are only two genders (as though that has not been a scientific fact since the beginning of time) and that trying to physically change from male to female or vice versa has lead to permanent damage to children who were not old enough to understand what was being done to them by adults they trusted. But the Colorado legislature seems hell bent on continuing down this dangerous and hurtful path. I pray that there are enough Democrat leaders who will have the courage to stand against this blatantly anti-family legislation. Please do not pass this legislation. Don't ignore Colorado parents. Don't ignore truth. Don't ignore common sense. And know that even if none of you believe in God, He is real and He won't be mocked. Your unbelief will not make Him go away. Ultimately, we will all stand before God and be held accountable for our actions. Do not be in a position where you have to explain that you allowed adults to experiment on the children of Colorado.
Ray Ramirez Against himself	I do hear by vote against this bill, it is outrageous and un American. GOD didn't create this bill, unlike un GODLY people
Gayle Montelin Against himself	To legislators re HB25-1312 This bill is an absolute outrage. How you as legislators could have the audacity to dictate how a parent relates to their child is beyond understanding. Also requiring schools and businesses to cooperate with this is insane. People know what is true and what isn't and requiring someone to lie is wrong. The Colorado legislature has gone off the rails with too many bills that defy common sense. Stop the madness and vote NO on HB23-1312.
Walter Koschik	Apposed to this bill. It is unconstitutional at the national level that would allow a set of cultural opinions be set as law over truths that have been known for ages by all.

Against themselves	And parents are the legal guardians of their children till adulthood without any kind of state interference or authority. There are reasons there are word in our language as perversity and and the visible uproar over men in women's sports. One Nation Under God will prevail, be forewarned.
Francis Gonzales Against themselves	As a retired police officer of 36 years. I'm also the father of three children, I cannot image the passing of this bill and how it would affect our God given parental responsibilities. Never in my life time would I have imagined that the state would usurp that responsibility from parents who are trusted to nurture their children according to their personal beliefs as well as teach children to regard and respect others as they need to be respected. As a voter of this state, , I am urging you to not pass this heinous bill as I feel that the government has no place in determining the manner in which other people act and their desire to be regarded and respected. I feel this bill undermines our parental rights and responsibility along with empowering educators in a way that they have no business being empowered. . As a parent who knows what is best for my children, my only expectation the our educators and our government was to teach them on the core principles of their curriculum and not this confusing ideology proposed in this bill. Therefore, it is for these reasons, I am in opposition of this bill.
Kathy Faucett Against themselves	I am strongly against this! Vote No!
Donna Schreiner-Li Against themselves	HB25-1312 Opposition Testimony April 27, 2025 I wish to voice my very strong opposition to HB-25-1312. This bill has been introduced under the pretense of expansion of freedoms and protection for children. However, quite to the contrary, this bill, if passed, would take away freedoms guaranteed by the US Constitution and put children in grave danger. HB-25-1312 would violate every citizen's first and fourteenth amendment rights to free speech and to determine the upbringing and education of their child. Furthermore, this bill hurts children. Affirmation is not the highest ideal of virtue, rather, it is love. Love always tells the truth. Love and truth always protect. It is not loving nor truthful to affirm a lie. A girl can not become a boy and vice versa. It is not loving to confuse children at an impressionable age about their identity and sexuality. This causes children great anxiety. If children are affirmed in transitioning socially, they may also transition physically. The physical transition includes chemical castration, genital mutilation, destruction of healthy tissue, painful procedures, pills

	suppressing a healthy body, and produces an impaired individual who is a life-long patient. Those who physically transition are 20 times more likely to die by suicide. Affirmation is not a loving, honest, positive, nor healthy outcome. HB-25-1312 puts Colorado's children in grave danger. Colorado's representatives and senators shoulder a great responsibility to serve the citizens of Colorado. As representatives and senators, you answer to the people. It is your duty to uphold the US Constitution. It is your obligation to protect the freedom of the people. It is your responsibility to protect our children from the horrors of transgender ideology and gender affirming surgery. It is your concern and burden to do everything in your power to show the children in this state love and truth, helping them to live productive, joyful, and healthy lives. Failure to vote NO on HB-1312 would be a failure on your part to serve your constituents. A NO vote protects freedoms and children. I strongly urge you to vote NO on HB-1312.
Rachel Campbell Against themselves	Hello, Thank you for your time. In choosing to submit my written testimony, I represent thousands of Colorado moms and dads who would implore you to oppose this bill. Everyone at this hearing wants good for our children, transgender or otherwise. We all want our children to grow up loved and accepted, healthy and happy in their own skin. It's time to trust that parents love them the best. This bill endangers parental rights for those who do not share the same worldview as its proponents. Many moms and dads who deeply love their children would not support the transition of their minor child who suffers from gender dysphoria. They are concerned about the long-term consequences of these body- and life-altering choices on children who are in a vulnerable and indecisive stage of life. They believe that is a decision their child must make in adulthood, but while the child is in their care, feel strongly that it is their parental right and responsibility to support what they believe is wisest and best for their child. Some people would strongly disagree with this viewpoint, even going so far as to call it child abuse. This is not because it is child abuse, it is because their opinions differ as to what is good for the child. My point is this: It is not anyone else's responsibility to raise my child; it is mine, and one I and parents like me take very seriously.

	I'm sure we can all agree that this parental responsibility is not a responsibility granted to me at the pleasure of my federal, state, or local governments. It may not be explicitly enumerated in the U.S. Constitution, but is nonetheless reserved for the people, your constituents. Please consider that in America, differing worldviews must be respected. Let's not jeopardize parental rights in favor of a single worldview. Please decide against this bill. Thank you for your service. Sincerely, Rachel Campbell
Slymm Jymm For themselves	PASS HB 1312! TRANS PEOPLE DESERVE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. -Drag King of the 4 Corners
Susan Luenser Against themselves	This bill is unconstitutional, with the state of Colorado compelling the speech of parents. As law, this would impact the rights and roles of parents in ways that are difficult for parents to counteract, when they disagree with the bill's implementations regarding their children. The bill is based on the legislature's bad faith about the legitimacy of parents to understand their child and know what is best for the child's welfare. If Colorado can do this to parents, the state can compel the speech of any citizen that it chooses to bully. And the state can make it financially difficult to oppose such bullying in court. Please vote against HB25-1312.
Brenda Kelly Against themselves	Dear Senate Judiciary, I respectfully ask you to consider the ramifications of this proposed bill. I have some major concerns.

	First, I have concerns that parents like me will have our religious liberties violated if we choose to teach our deeply held Biblical beliefs that a.) God created two genders and b.) parents are to teach their children God's word. This bill will criminalize parents who instruct a child in the truth of God's word, when that child believes he/she is gender confused in the truth of God's word, and are only willing to speak truth and not lies. God condemns liars, and calling a child by a different name than the one the parent gave at birth is not "deadnaming", it is speaking truth. My second concern is with the compelled speech that this bill forces. Our 1st Amendment has given us free speech. And I think the writers of this bill have forgotten that the First Amendment does not allow for compelled speech. The principle of compelled speech, as established in cases like West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette, dictates that the government cannot force individuals or groups to express particular messages or adopt specific viewpoints. This protection extends to individuals who refuse to articulate, advocate, or adhere to messages the government approves. The compelled speech doctrine is a crucial aspect of free speech, ensuring that individuals are not forced to express views they do not share or support! My third concern is that, while those who have brought forth this bill say they have worked on it for over a year, when asked if they had included parents in the discussion, they dismissed that idea and called parents horrible names. Parental rights are esconced in the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution, being upheld by the Supreme Court via the due process clause of the 14th Amendment. This bill will violate all parents' rights. Finally, it is obvious, that those who brought forth this bill believe that the government should have more control and say over Colorado children than parents should have. Parents, who birthed, raised, loved, educated and financially cared for them. Please do not allow this bill to move out of committee. It is flawed! Sincerely, Brenda Kelly
Robert Koltz Against themselves	This bill is an outright assault on parental rights including freedom of speech, religious liberty and maintaining the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children. In addition, this bill does not, in my opinion, represent the will of the majority of Coloradans who elected their representatives to legislate and uphold the aforementioned parental rights.
Bailey Carlson	To whom it may concern,

For themselves	It is of utmost importance to pass the Kelley Loving Act. Transgender people, especially trans youth, are under a barrage of attacks by this current administration. Instead of being allowed to be happy, healthy, authentic children, trans kids are having to continually defend their existence. Families are having to flee to states like Colorado to avoid harmful laws that have been written to hurt trans kids under the guise of "protecting children." In 2025 alone, there have been 859 anti-transgender bills proposed across 49 states. Trans people make up approximately .6% of the population. So much hate and vitriol is being unleashed on such a small part of the population. It is important that we step up to protect trans kids through this onslaught of attacks. Trans people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. They deserve to be protected. Please, vote "yes" and pass the Kelley Loving Act.
Lawrence Aguirre Against themselves	Senators of Colorado, I write to you as a Father, Business Owner, Degree holder in Counseling Psychology, and concerned Colorado Native. The delicate nature of our youth's transformation through brain development, and life's experiences, are in constant growth throughout their teens and young adulthood. Not only is up to the parents to help navigate their own children's sexual orientation, scientifically they are not necessarily very well equipped to come to a finalized conclusions in their teenage development years. Because their brain development goes into their mid 20's before settling in, you would be doing the youth of Colorado a disservice if you voted yes on this bill. I, and so many others, do not agree with HB25-1312. Please search within yourselves and understand how unnecessary this bill is. Please vote no on this bill. Lawrence Aguirre
Heather Macvicar Against themselves	I am against HB25-1312 simply put because God does not make mistakes. The biology and DNA of an individual is clear and factual and cannot be changed. An individual who "feels" a certain way about their sex assignment does not make them the opposite sex, that is personal choice and the public and parents should not be forced to cooperate in this false reality. The rights of parents are under attack and parents should be allowed to support and parent their children in the manner they see best fit for them. The state should not have the right to make decisions for underage children who are not fully developed both physically and mentally and may be influenced by societal trends. Children are not allowed to vote until the age of 18, why would you allow minors to have the right to harm themselves and make life altering decisions that they are not fully able to comprehend how this will alter their lives forever?? I pray that God will protect the children and parental rights of this nation and the state of Colorado. Thank you.
Donna Layne Against	HB25-1312 undermines parental rights, and it requires lying.

themselves	There is a common false dichotomy, that it is better to have a live son rather than a dead daughter, and vice versa. However, there is another way, which is to speak the truth in love. Truth and love are complementary virtues, not opposites. Truth exists, and the opposite of truth is false; this is absolutely true. The opposite of true is false; the opposite of speaking the truth is lying, or deceptively manipulating. Truth reveals reality to a child, clearing up confusion, while love demonstrates devotion to help a child go from fear to assurance. Parents can and should always be able to be kind and consistent, as they correct and redirect their children's wrong thinking and wayward behaviors. Withholding the truth from a child is willful dishonesty and heartless betrayal
Anonymous Anonymous Against themselves	I hardly know where to begin. I am a mother, a tomboy, a wife, a Christian, a proud Coloradan — HB24-1312 is a betrayal. It rips parental rights from our hands and places our children into the arms of the state, a state that does not know their hearts, their hurts, their hopes, it does not know them but only pretends to. This bill exploits our children's innocence, their rebellion, their tender, impressionable minds. This bill does not protect. It divides. It destroys. It severs the sacred bond between parent and child, the one that starts in a womb, built from sleepless nights, late feeding at the breast, scraped knees, whispered prayers. A mother's LOVE. Children will act out. Parents will stand firm, not to control, but to love, to shield, to guide. HB24-1312 tears that away. If you believe this is what Colorado wants, then let us prove it. Put it to a vote. Let the people speak. Let parents stand. I am asking you: do not pass this. Do not break what was never yours to claim. - A concerned mother

Karen Lockman Gordon Against themselves	I support a parents right to raise their children until age 16. A child needs to go through the natural process of puberty before he or she can fully understand what the body is going through before making a life altering change that is irreversible. God created male and female.
Jake Miller Against themselves	I am opposed to this Bill for the weaponization of pronouns against families, and lack of consideration to opposing viewpoints.
Suzannah Fritchman Against themselves	Testimony Opposing HB25-1312 Presented to the Colorado Legislature Members of the Committee, I rise today in strong opposition to HB25-1312, a bill that, under the guise of “legal protections,” undermines the fundamental rights of parents, erodes basic biological reality, and threatens the safety, privacy, and freedom of all Coloradans. This bill represents an extreme government overreach into the lives of families. It removes critical parental rights by empowering minors to make life-altering, irreversible decisions without the full guidance and protection of their parents. Parents are not barriers to a child’s flourishing—they are the guardians and protectors given by nature and by law to steward their child’s wellbeing. HB25-1312 tells parents that their voice, wisdom, and love are a threat. That is not protection; it is coercion. Furthermore, HB25-1312 undermines truth itself by codifying the idea that gender is wholly subjective, dismissing the biological reality that has governed human society for all of history. When the law demands that citizens deny basic scientific fact to accommodate ideology, it is not creating equality—it is enforcing a lie. That kind of legal manipulation opens the door to endless conflict, confusion, and ultimately, harm. Safety and privacy are also at stake. Policies that allow biological males into women’s spaces—whether bathrooms, locker rooms, or shelters—place vulnerable populations at real risk. It is not hateful to say so; it is common sense backed by countless examples across the country. HB25-1312 ignores those concerns entirely, sacrificing the well-being of the many to appease the few.

	The state's role should be to protect the rights of all—not to impose radical social experiments by law, especially those that trample on free speech, religious freedom, parental authority, and the rights of women and children. HB25-1312 is a dangerous, divisive piece of legislation that has no place in a society that claims to value truth, family, and freedom. I urge you in the strongest possible terms: reject this bill. Protect families. Protect truth. Protect Colorado. Thank you.
Lois McCurley Against themselves	Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, This bill represents a grave threat to parental rights, religious freedom, and free speech in Colorado. By redefining "coercive control" to include "misgendering" and "deadnaming," HB25-1312 criminalizes ordinary parental guidance and undermines the sacred bond between parents and their children. It empowers courts to punish parents for affirming biological reality and raising their children according to conscience, common sense, and faith. The bill's vague and subjective language invites dangerous legal overreach, creating a chilling effect on families, churches, schools, and businesses alike. It forces Coloradans to speak and act against their sincerely held religious beliefs or risk being branded as abusers and discriminators. This is a clear violation of First Amendment rights and an affront to the foundational liberties our state and nation were built upon. Children, by definition, require the loving leadership of their parents — not the unchecked intervention of the state. Elevating a child's momentary wishes above parental wisdom undermines the family structure and jeopardizes the healthy development of future generations. HB25-1312 is not a step toward compassion — it is a reckless attack on the rights and responsibilities of parents and citizens. I urge you to reject this dangerous and unconstitutional bill. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.
Chad McCool Against	There's something darkly comedic—if not downright Orwellian—about the state of Colorado telling parents that if they don't call their son "Susie," they might lose custody. And yet here we are.

themselves	House Bill 25-1312 wants to protect people from “misgendering,” “deadnaming,” and other crimes against the Revolution. What was once the stuff of bad satire is now printed in statehouse documents. First, the bill makes it clear: if a parent refuses to indulge their child’s delusions of self-made identity, that could count against them in custody court. Deadnaming—using a person’s birth name instead of their “chosen name”—is defined as a form of coercive control. Misgendering is right there next to physical abuse. Let that sink in. Now, I don’t want to minimize actual abuse. There are bad fathers out there, and every honest man knows it. But calling your son “he” when he demands “she” is not abuse—it’s basic sanity. If Colorado wants to criminalize basic biology, they’ll have to pry Genesis 1 out of our cold, dead Bibles. This bill does not stop at custody cases. It touches public accommodations, schools, and anti-discrimination codes. In short: you may be required to speak the lie. Imagine a Christian school where Johnny demands to be called Jane, and the teacher who says, “I’m sorry, I can’t do that” is now in violation of civil rights law. The state is attempting to mandate speech—and not just any speech, but speech that explicitly denies the God of Heaven. And let’s be clear: this is not neutrality. This is moral tyranny in rainbow colors. Under this bill, schools can’t have gendered dress codes. So there’s no difference between Johnny’s kilt and Susie’s jeans. That’s because the modern regime isn’t interested in liberty; they’re interested in erasing distinctions—between male and female, between truth and falsehood, between the Creator and the creature. The goal is androgyny: neutered minds in neutered bodies, forming a neutered society where no one can say what anything is—except the state, of course. The state still gets to define the definitions. Funny how that works. What about religious liberty? Religious liberty is the current fig leaf covering a host of theological compromises. We need more than liberty. We need boldness. The state isn’t trying to outlaw church potlucks (yet); they’re trying to reprogram the Christian conscience by legislation. They want our children’s names, our speech, our classroom, our business, our pulpit—everything, really.

	As a faithful Christian and pastor, I'm going to do the same thing we've always done. We preach the gospel, we raise our kids in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and when the state commands us to lie, we say no. We say it with respect. We say it with charity. We say it with open Bibles. But we say it. And if the magistrate wants to fine us, sue us, or strip us of custody for saying what God says about gender, then the magistrate can take a number. We've been here before. Rome had lions. Colorado has lawyers. Either way, the marching orders haven't changed: "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29) Christians are not going to hide behind the potted plants on this one. If the church can't stand up for the basic truth that boys are boys and girls are girls, what exactly is she good for? As Christian parents, our home is our jurisdiction. Our job is not to obey the culture but to disciple our children into covenant faithfulness. If the state tries to put their hand on our children's identities, we'll slap it away—legally, biblically, courageously. We are not here to surrender ground. We are here to plant flags. And the first flag is this: God made them male and female. Soli Deo Gloria.
Andrew Sichterman For himself	On the matter of the Act to give civil protections for transgender and gender diverse individuals, I am for this bill. This bill does provide a framework for transgender people to receive the equality and dignity we deserve.
Liudmyla Mashkaruk Against himself	Testimony in Opposition to HB 1312 I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. This bill poses a serious threat to parental rights, child safety, and the integrity of families. HB25-1312 seeks to strip custody from loving, supportive parents who are making the best, most thoughtful decisions for their children. It would criminalize parents for using their child's birth name — a deeply personal and family-centered choice —

	and insert the government into private family matters where love, understanding, and individualized care should guide decisions, not political mandates. Even more alarming, this bill leaves vulnerable children defenseless against irreversible medical harm. Instead of protecting young people, HB25-1312 removes vital safeguards that allow families, in collaboration with medical and mental health professionals, to make careful, informed decisions about a child's well-being. As a community, we must prioritize compassion, protect parental rights, and ensure that no child is forced down a path of lifelong medical consequences without the loving involvement and guidance of their parents. I urge you to reject HB25-1312 and stand for the rights of families to care for their children without fear of government overreach. Sincerely, Liudmyla Mashkaruk Thornton, CO
Olivia Compton For themselves	Chair Gonzales and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Olivia Compton, and I am writing on my own behalf as a trans woman to urge the committee to vote in favor of HB 1312 The policies proposed in this bill seek to address the harassment and singling out youth in our community experience at school and at home. Only 37% of LGBTQ youth surveyed by the Trevor Project identified their homes as affirming spaces and only 55% identified their schools as such. We know that access to affirming spaces reduces self-harm because the most common comorbidities among LGBTQ youth are externally driven, not internal. Trans people deserve to be treated the same as their peers. I hear all the time that this law is unnecessary because we have protections already, but those protections are not enough. I have friends who are intentionally deadnamed and misgendered at work and friends who have been fired for being transgender. I've had the opportunity to get to know trans and gender diverse youth who are deadnamed and misgendered at school and at home, youth who are harassed by their teachers and school admins, youth whose parents threaten them and kick them out of the house because of who they are. We are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for equal treatment under the law, something we don't currently enjoy. There are already limits on what parents and teachers are and are not allowed to do to children. The policies proposed seek to clarify what these limits are, and to be

	clear, these limits are hardly new. This body has routinely clarified that deadnaming and misgendering are corrosive and the gender affirming care for adults and youth is life-saving and necessary. LGBTQ+ youth have just as much right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as any adult. For these reasons, I ask you to support this bill.
Kristel Owen Against themselves	My name is Kristel Owen, and I am writing to respectfully urge you to oppose HB25-1312. As a Christian, I believe this bill poses a serious threat to religious freedom and parental rights. It could have harmful implications for pastors and public schools who are simply trying to live out and teach their values with integrity. I am also deeply concerned about the way this bill may promote ideologies around gender dysphoria in children. Research shows that the majority of children who experience gender dysphoria eventually grow out of it without medical intervention. Encouraging children down a path that may include puberty blockers, hormones, or surgeries — some of which have irreversible consequences — is dangerous and not in their best long-term interest. Parents, faith leaders, and educators should be free to guide children with compassion, truth, and care — not compelled by law to affirm something that could ultimately harm them. HB25-1312 undermines that freedom and risks harming the very children it claims to protect. I respectfully ask you to oppose this bill and stand for the protection of religious liberty, parental rights, and the long-term well-being of Colorado's children. Thank you for considering my testimony.
Chester Gebhards Against themselves	Honorable Senators, I am strongly opposed to the so-called Transgender Rights bill. I feel that it is wrong on several fronts. First, it violates my deeply held religious beliefs that God created 2 sex male and female, determined at conception with either XY or XX chromosomes. Requiring me to use names or pronouns that do not match the biological sex violates my First Amendment free speech Rights by trying to force me to speak in a way that contradicts my beliefs and opinions. Other requirements violates my parental Rights. The sections that address businesses and make it a crime to "misgender" someone also violates free speech Rights. I would predict Constitutional law suits against this legislation. Given that the State is facing budget issues, do you want to incur the costs of these suits? I strongly urge you vote against this legislation. Respectfully submitted, Chester Gebhards
Wendy Jeub Against themselves	being respectful.

	I'm Wendy Jeub from Monument, Colorado. I am calling to urge Sen. to not allow House Bill 1312 to advance in the Senate. HB 1312 is one of the biggest threats to parental rights and religious freedom that our state has ever faced. It undermines the essential role of parents! It silences free speech and erases freedom of religion, and It elevates government authority over family decisions in troubling ways. Please do everything in your power to stop HB 1312 from advancing in the Senate. Vote NO! Thank you.
James Payne For themselves	I want Colorado to be a safe haven for my friends and neighbors just trying to live their lives. A trans identity shouldn't keep someone from their safety, comfort, or right to build a life in our lovely state.
Amber Jones For themselves	Dear Esteemed Colorado Legislators, I am writing to implore you to pass HB 25-1312. As the mother of a transgender child in elementary school, who is also divorced and has shared custody of my child with my ex-husband, this bill will protect my child's physical, mental and emotional health. The protections in this bill are in the child's best interest when it comes to parenting and custody arrangements. This bill will ensure that the mental health of the child will be protected to the utmost degree. The protections in school regarding chosen gender identity, naming, clothing choices and dress code, also will lead to greater health and wellbeing for trans children in Colorado. In this time of uncertainty in our country with so many anti-trans bills being passed in other states, many of us parents feel that our children's lives, well being, and existence are being challenged and forcibly erased. This is extremely difficult for the mental and emotional health of our children, as well as for us as caregivers and parents. Please protect transgender people and children by passing this bill.
Debbie Anello Against themselves	I am your constituent, and I urge you to vote NO on HB1312, HB1309, and SB183. These bills cross a line by threatening religious liberty, undermining the rights of parents, and expanding state control into deeply personal areas of life.

	We can support all children without silencing or punishing people of faith, and without cutting parents out of the equation. Please protect the freedoms and values that make our communities strong and diverse.
Betsy Rhoades Against themselves	To whom it may concern, We are continuing down a dark path. There are no blessings on this road. No light. It is confusion and pain. However, there is a better path, one that is narrow and hard to choose because it goes against the flow. We do have a choice, though. We continue to stumble on in the darkness that is full of pits and traps, or we get off this evil path. We turn to the light. We walk the path of hope, the path of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. Let us come together and follow the light. The light is Jesus.
Jennifer Herrema Against themselves	I am against this bill. It is unconstitutional in nature, it is a slap in the face to parental rights, and goes against freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Parents have the God given right to direct the upbringing of their children and the STATE cannot take that away with the swipe of a pen. The government overreach in this bill is astounding. You have an entire nation following this bill to see how democrats can author such an egregious bill that is blatantly un-American at its core. This isn't about "transgender rights" and you are well aware of that. This is a blatant attack on parental rights and the family. You cannot author a bill for compelled speech. This is AMERICA. We have a Constitutional Republic. This is not a communist country. You were elected to represent your CONSTITUENTS, not your personal agenda to erode families and destroy healthy children. You will each be held accountable for your actions if you pass this unconstitutional bill. Democrats love to scream "Constitutional Crisis!" Well, here you go. This is where it actually applies. Thank you for your time. Parent > Government
Christopher Casillas Against themselves	I am firmly against HB25-1312. This bill is a gross infringement on the religious rights of Christians across the state. Please vote NO on HB25-1312.
Caren Boddie Against themselves	Senators, My great grandparents graduated from Denver high schools in 1889. My family has paid taxes and sown into this state in other, positive ways as good citizens for many generations. For all that what do their descendants get from our Legislature today? Betrayal. Foolishness. An all-out assault on our God-given rights.

	So, I must take my time to object to SB25-1312. It violates the right of parents to raise their children as they see fit, and it violates their right to speak as they wish as they do so. Please do not pass this bill. Let it die. My great grandparents, Halley and Louie, would appreciate it, and so will all parents living in Colorado today. Sincerely, Caren Boddie
Jennie Tucker Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Kat Pamplin For themselves	Young LGBTQ Coloradoans are at extreme risk of suicide and mental health issues. A world that won't support who you are isn't worth living in. These protections are necessary for cementing the livelihoods and respect necessary to keep our lgbt youth safe.
Peter Valkonen Against	Up to 98% of children who struggle with body dysphoria grow to accept their biological sex by adulthood. So-called "gender affirming care" results in castration, sterilization and life-long sexual dysfunction. After so-called "sex reassignment

themselves	surgery," boys and girls are nearly 20 times more likely to die from suicide than the general population. Let kids be kids. Please, let kids be kids. Please vote no on CO HB25-1312. Thank You.
Nathaniel Bullington Against themselves	I am absolutely appalled to hear that "misgendering" somebody could cause loss of custody of your child or be a hate crime against another. Biologically there are only two genders, biblically only two genders, LITERALLY only two! Transgenderism used to be called "gender dysphoria" it is a mental illness and those individuals need a loving person in their life to tell them they need help. Transgender people have a higher chance of other mental illness and suicide, and transitioning, or forcing others to go with their delusion, proves to only be harmful. If this bill does not pass, then it will be the cause of many lives saved.
Dianne Ebel Against themselves	I would encourage this bill to be revised once again . If there is truly need for protection of transgendered children from their parents . There needs to be mediation. To take the parents out of the equation is illegal until that person is 18. As written this can be used wrongly against parents and against the child. Any disgruntled parent, teacher or child can wield this power wrongly. Please rethink this and vote NO
Anthony Ollila Against themselves	As a lifelong resident of Colorado, I am strongly against this bill.
Ciara Vedrode Against themselves	I strongly oppose this bill. As a child, I was a tomboy. I enjoyed catching frogs and lizards and running barefoot in my backyard. My outfit of choice was patent leather flats with bows and boys pajamas because they had Buzz Lightyear on them. I liked animals more than princesses. The color blue over pink. If I was a child today, I would be told these were signs I was meant to be a boy. Renamed, rebranded. Fixed like a common house pet. And it all would have been utterly wrong.

	Because when I hit puberty, I turned from my tomboy ways. Eventually I would grow to love princesses and romances, blanch at bugs, and hate the outdoors because of them. The point being, we change. We evolve. Regardless of our childhoods, our own parents, we either grow into their teachings or away from them. Children should be allowed to go through any number of phases without an existential crisis. To be a tomboy one moment, a girly girl the next. These are adult issues, the transgender condition, left for consenting adults who know themselves. And this specific bill. There are too many stories of children who have later come to regret and change their mind. How predatory some institutions are in their aim of robbing children of the joys and innocence of youth. I can only hope my own children, that all children of Colorado, have the freedom to experience the many changes in their growth without the confusion and anxiety that comes with questioning what they are. That they can simply be. What a cold day in America it will be when parents who actually love their children enough to protect their youth and innocence have their rights stripped from them.
Ashley Young For themselves	Hearing Item: HB25-1312 Position on the Hearing Item: For My name is Ashley Young and I am submitting written testimony as a resident of Centennial, Colorado in support of the Kelly Loving Act. This act, that will expand legal protections for transgender individuals, is a wonderful way to honor the life of a beautiful soul that was taken from this world way too soon. As a kid, I had friends that didn't fit the gender binary. We didn't know the words to describe who they were and how they felt growing up at the time. One person felt like they would never fit into this world and took their own life. There are many trans people who are not alive today due to violence against trans people, and due to our society not widely accepting trans people, the way that we ALL should. I support this bill because it could save lives. I want to see my trans loved ones thrive, not just survive. This bill would not cause harm. What does cause harm is all this uninformed, right-wing, anti-human rights rhetoric, mainly from those who do not even know any

	transgender people personally and don't care to educate themselves and don't care to listen to those with lived experiences. I am a parent and a former substitute teacher. Using children's correct names and pronouns was never an issue. In fact, when children felt comfortable enough to tell me their pronouns, a substitute teacher they had never met, their faces always lit up when I made a point to use their pronouns. Creating a classroom where each student felt seen and heard, even if I would not see them again, was incredibly important to me. Dress codes based on gender have always been unnecessarily restrictive as well, usually for female and transgender students. These policies are usually just in place to further restrict trans kids from being themselves and are completely unnecessary. Please remember, we are talking about HUMAN BEINGS here. We just want trans people to have the basic rights and protections that all human beings should have. Transgender people are a minority in our society. All adults in our state should be fully aware that discriminating against a group of minority human beings is wrong on all levels. Thank you.
Stanley Lightfoot Against Rustic Hills Baptist Church	Good afternoon, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I am writing to testify against HB25-1312: "Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals." I grew up in the 1950s and 60s. I went to public school through the 9th grade, Christian High school and college after that. My parents, my teachers, my medical doctor were all on the same page with respect to how they treated me. They had my best interests at heart. My teachers did not deceive my parents about what was happening with me at school. My parents supported my teachers because they trusted them to do what was best for me - and they had good reason to do so. My doctor took care of the physical challenges I faced that were beyond the capabilities of my parents, but always in consultation with my parents and in deference to their wishes. He viewed me from the perspective of the Hippocratic oath - "First, do no harm." They all understood that as a minor, I was in no position to make life-altering decisions about my well being. I simply did not have the emotional or mental capability to make those kinds of decisions. While that is still true of children today, this is a very different era. Adults are placing information in front of children that they are too young to process and forcing them into decisions they cannot make with clarity. Teachers see themselves as the caretakers of the children - often at odds with the wishes of the parents. Elected - and unelected - officials often view themselves the same way. Some physicians ignore the basic Hippocratic premise and perform harmful procedures for the sake of material gain. I am glad I'm past the time of child-rearing, but I tremble for the welfare of my grandchildren. This bill is an attempted legislative assault on the rights and responsibilities of parents by a state government that is in the process of usurping the role of parents

	and of God Himself. HB25-1312 proposes to deprive the people who love these kids the most of their rights as parents. The Colorado legislature is attempting to make policy for everyone on the basis of the dysphoria of a few. What of the rights of the majority, trampled in the rush to push this philosophical position? What of the rights of the young girls who are forced - FORCED - into situations where they are exposed to male nudity in what should be safe spaces? What of the rights of parents to rear their children according to the dictates of their own consciences? This government calls it "misgendering" when parents refer to a child by the pronouns that fit the child at birth, instead of the pronouns a minor may choose before he or she is fully capable of considering the consequences of such a decision. This bill calls it "deadnaming" when parents use the name they lovingly provided the child at birth on the basis of biological realities. This government says it is "compassionate" to consign a child to a lifetime of sex-altering drugs, and so-called "treatments" that may well render a child impotent - unable to conceive or bear children, while considering the use of accurate pronouns and given names "abuse." So-called "gender-affirmation" shares in the children's fantasies instead of providing them with steady counsel that will help them get through this difficult time. Studies show that 80-95% of gender dysphoric kids will grow out of that dysphoria if the meddling adults in their lives will leave them alone. Studies also show that children are more likely to commit suicide after so-called "gender-affirming care" than they were before. The "Would you rather have a dead son or a live daughter?" mantra is not based in fact, is designed to scare parents into submission, and is promoted by people who are more interested in profiting from the "treatments" than benefiting the actual human beings whose lives they are damaging. This government ignores hard science in favor of a flimsy, ideologically-driven philosophy that flies in the face of thousands of years of human history, of biology, and of common sense. It appears our society has completely lost its collective mind. There is no basis in science or law for the Colorado State legislature to enact this draconian, totalitarian measure, usurp the God-given role of loving parents, and ignore the best interests of children in an all-too-apparent effort to protect - not the children, but ideological positions.

	Stan Lightfoot, D.Min. Rustic Hills Baptist Church 1927 N. Murray Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80915 pastor@rustichillsbaptist.org 719-596-0051
Sharron Penny Against themselves	Senators, I am the great grandmother of four young children in northern Colorado. They are happy, well-adjusted young people and would not be inclined to think that they were born in the wrong body. However, if that were ever to happen due to peer pressure, social media influence or adult grooming, their parents, the adults who love and care for them the most, would be immediately on task in affirming their birth sex and names. Please be mindful of the fact that the state is NOT the parent in a free society. The state claims to be the "parent" in communist societies!! It is not within the purview of the State of Colorado to dictate to parents regarding their children's natural sexuality and legal titles or to attach "discrimination" accusations and child custody threats to those issues. I respectfully ask members of this committee to decline to micromanage family life and parental guidance via HB25-1312 and to terminate the furtherance of this bill. Respectfully, Sharron Penny Loveland, Colorado
Tera Gill Against themselves	Hello, As a Christian parent who sends their children to a Christian school, I am adamantly against this bill. This takes away my parental and religious rights. I believe this bill has taken that issue too far and goes against the interests of both parent and child. Please oppose this bill or amend to include religious exemptions. Thank you - Tera Gill
Jamie Arnett Against	When my family moved to Colorado 7 years ago, I felt that we were moving to a place of hope, and of healing.

themselves	And at first, this was the case. After covid, things drastically changed. Everything seemed focused on the transgender movement, and gender ideology. An issue that seemingly came out of nowhere. Suddenly, my daughter and i could no longer go shopping, without encountering a biological male in a dress in dressing rooms, ladies facilities, etc. I knew by then that the children and school systems were next, and I was right. We have teachers overreaching their boundaries by friending students on social media, sharing personal details about their sexual habits and "pronouns". Pride flags on the walls of classrooms, and books such as the infamous "pride puppy" and "gender queer" on bookshelves. A lot of parents were in the dark about these changes taking place in their children's schools, which is why we are now at this point, where the state wants to throw parents in jail for not playing along with these delusions. In Colorado, a child is not allowed to vote, drink, get tattoos, join the military before a certain age. Why is this? because children lack the ability to make life changing decisions before their brain has fully developed. Allowing a child to be influenced by a teacher who already has an agenda is pure folly, to say the least. The idea that the state of Colorado would be able to arrest parents for disagreeing with said teacher and child is a chilling and disturbing thought, and it is a thought that will be brought to fruition, unless parents stand up and say NO to all of this. No teacher, government official of any kind has the right to influence your child into deciding that their body is faulty, and should be mutilated, nor should they encourage children to give up their birth name and identity. No one has the right to teach your child except for you, and you can no longer trust the school system to stay out of what is none of their business. Spend an afternoon browsing the MTF subreddit, and see the number of adults who will gladly tell your teenage child that they are in fact trans, and their parents are being "abusive" for not letting them have access to life altering medications or surgeries. There are many predators out there, and the school system should NOT be one of them. Please let Colorado become a place of hope and healing again, not this ghoulish place of medical experimentation on our children that will someday be looked upon in horror and disbelief. Thank you
Tim Fuglei For themselves	This bill is vital to protect some of the most vulnerable and non-threatening members of our society. Their fortunes have fallen into perilous territory on the national stage with prejudice, demonization and misinformation, so Colorado has a great chance here to form a supportive barrier for our trans community against this frankly Unamerican treatment. Please vote this bill into law so our trans friends, family and neighbors can know they are protected and valued here in the great state of Colorado.
Jennifer Nelson Against themselves	Dear Senate Judiciary Committee

	I am a native Coloradan, a mother of 4, a wife of almost 20yrs, a United States Marine Corps Veteran and a Christian. I have great respect for each of you in your willingness and commitment to your leadership here in our beautiful state. I'm writing you all in regard to HB25-1312. I chose to believe that you all serve in this capacity for the greater good of all our citizens here in Colorado. I will not appeal to party lines or even address my personal faith based beliefs. I am reaching out to you as a Coloradan parent, citizen and veteran (I strongly believe in our rights, liberties and true justice for all). Although I agree there is a great need to make great strides to serve and protect those who are within the the Transgender community, I strongly disagree with this route. Sadly, suicide rates are indeed higher in this community, and I don't doubt that having family members that make them feel unloved and unsupported is a contributing factor. The issue is, I feel, is that this bill doesn't safely, properly and effectively address that need and dynamic. I think we can all agree that laws truly exist for one ultimate purpose, to have the ability to prosecute and hold those accountable, who do harmful wrongs to others. They aren't as successful as we all wish in actually keeping people from doing the harmful acts, just gives our legal and judicial system the right to intervene after the fact. Which is why it is vital that we understand whether a law will truly only prosecute those who the law is intended to prosecute and protect those who are intended to be protected. Nothing is perfect, but we must be sure that the law is going to be effective at truly prosecuting those causing harm, and not creating a new weapon to be used against those who aren't. If a teenager, or angry co parent, or anyone else in the child's life is able to make one call and say, "I've been" or "a child has been misgendered or deadnamed" and that can inturn equate to the response this bill describes, it leaves me concerned on multiple levels. One the spectrum of circumstances could easily range from a mistake (I call my kids by their siblings names accidentally, I can't imagine not making that mistake in calling my child by the name they were given at birth while adjusting to a new name, much less gender pronouns) to a greater issue (which I choose to believe is the intended purpose of this bill) of actual verbal/emotional abuse and/or neglect. As these situations will primarily be based in one person's word against another, how accurately can the due process of our legal system truly handle these cases? Up until now, it has been entrusted by parents/ legal guardians to make the best decisions they can in the process of caring for their children, so if a parent wants to start with therapy or something in order to see if there is anything they can do to help their child(ren) in an event of emotional and mental health distress, and they are deemed as non affirming, that doesn't seem safe or right to have an end all be all type response. I feel this creates to broad a definition that can lead to parental rights being taken away, when that may not have actually been necessary or in the best interest of the child(ren) involved.

	Here is an example outside of this specific topic that I hope can bring clarity, and no it is not an apples to apples comparison . I think of needing to get help for a child who struggles with body dysmorphia which we all know can lead to anorexia, bulimia and depression to name a few. Now, could you imagine being told we must just affirm their feelings and allow them to make harmful choices to their body to support their mental health disorder, to legally have to support their skewed perspective instead of giving them loving support and the help they need? Now if a child is struggling with that kind of mental health based disorder, I think we can all agree it would be neglectful to affirm and to not seek medical and psychological (therapy based) help, right? I believe families need to have the right to make the best decision they can for their child. I know families personally who have chosen to affirm their child's preferred name and pronouns, and it has never led to any physical harm for the child. I say this to state my issue again is not specifically in affirmation. It's in the way this bill opens the door for parents who aren't bullying, abusing, or neglecting their children to lose their parental rights, not only those who are abusive in nature will wind up on the prosecuted side of this bill. Please, vote no on this bill. Jennifer Nelson In all things bring Him the glory!
Hannah Robinson Against themselves	As a Colorado native and mother of two children, I am deeply concerned with where our state and HB25-1312 is headed. When I think back on my childhood in this great state, I grew up knowing right from wrong, I grew up respecting my parents and elders and also grew up knowing that I was made just the way god wanted me to be made, which was a girl. My two boys, know that they were also made just the way god wanted them to be made, both as boys. When my husband and I found out each time that we were having a boy, we carefully thought about the name we would give our sons. We chose their names with our values in mind and what we wanted our two boys to stand for as they grew up. One of which was giving our boys strong names that they could stand behind and be proud of no matter what came their way. Now the state of Colorado thinks it would OK to criminalize parents for calling their child by their birth name if their child wishes to be called by a different name because they are confused about or rejecting their God-given sex. This bill attacks parental rights, religious freedom and the free speech of all Coloradans. I strongly vote AGAINST this bill. The state has no right to decide what name or gender my kids can or will identify with. I will teach and raise my children the way God intended them to be, which is to be two strong, kind and smart boys and to remember that standing up for your God given rights is important.

Rebekah Esko Against themselves	Colorado has gotten the attention of national and international media for HB25-1312 and not in a good way. Doctors are horrified that the state legislature has determined that any and every confused child needs "gender affirming" medical interventions and would demonize a parent who takes the time to investigate the best care for their child. The bill provides incentives to a parent to manipulate a child into identifying as the opposite sex as a pawn in a custody battle. A giggling 7 year old who tells people his name is now "miss pooppy pants" would have the full force of the law to demand everyone around him use his name or else be guilty of "deadnaming" him. A battered woman can be found guilty of "coercive control" for telling the perpetrator that she will call immigration if he doesn't stop the violence. Colorado will have to waste taxpayer funds on lawsuits to defend this blatantly unconstitutional bill. The fiscal note on this bill is completely inaccurate. As a Colorado native, I visit Colorado regularly. I and millions of potential tourists are saying they don't want to visit Colorado anymore if HB25-1312 passes. It is too draconian. Too extremist. Too much of a violation of freedom of speech and parents rights. Colorado stands to lose over a billion dollars of tax revenue that would have been generated by tourists who will instead put Colorado on their no visit list. Please do the right thing and vote no on HB25-1312
Pam Bultmann Against themselves	I am a mother of two and a grandmother of four. The family is the basic, foundational building block of any society. As parents, we have more invested in our children than any institution could ever have. This bill would take away the parental responsibility of raising our children in the ways that we believe is best for them. Please affirm the family and vote NO on this bill.
Andrew Scheribel Against Citylight Church	Hello, Dead naming and misgendering are rooted in a particular worldview that stands opposed to God's Word. Therefore, it is a violation of religious freedom to define these terms as "coercive control." There are many sound, biblical arguments that show using a child's given name at birth along with their birth pronouns is NOT harmful, but loving. Children have been confused about identity and meaning as long as humans have existed. A Christian worldview believes that understanding that

	we are made in the image of God and that our identity in Him is the answer, not gender-affirming care or communication. We can agree to disagree, but the state should not be able to use their worldview against a parent's as a basis for parental rights. Of course, dead naming and misgendering can be abusive. And of course, we want to protect children from abuse and manipulation. But from a loving Christian parent, it may also be their attempt to help them not look for identity in the wrong places, or at minimum, living by their religious convictions.
Nichole Watts Against themselves	Thank you for your time. The ramifications if this passes far exceed political agendas. 1. Disputing parents will be able to weaponize gender ideology to remove parental rights. 2. We cannot take a child away from a parent who disagrees with things like religion and medical choices. If one parent wanted to raise a child with vaccinations and one without, we wouldn't remove one of their rights to be a parent. 3. This goes against the 1st amendment taking away Christian, Muslim, Jews, and many other religions' rights to believe in biological genders.
Julia Stadler For themselves	It is so important to protect the rights of trans people, especially trans kids and their parents. It would pain me to see a child removed from a loving home simply for getting the care that they need. The simple truth is that gender affirming care saves lives; those who seek it and those who provide it absolutely need to be protected under the law.
Tony Pranaitis Against themselves	Many people, myself included, go by "nicknames" (for me, Tony) but LEGALLY my name is on my birth certificate (Anthony). My legal name is on my driver's license, my tax return, my Social Security card, my passport, my medical records, and would be on any legal proceeding (if I were accused of a crime). And if I were accused of a crime, physical evidence would reveal my sex based on my DNA. These are LEGAL identification markers and they are immutable. I can dress however I want, behave however I want, if I'm an adult and I have the financial resources I can pay a surgeon to alter my appearance and even certain bodily functions. But LEGALLY I am still Anthony Pranaitis (not Tony) and my DNA is male. A parent, or any other person, has every right to address a child by their LEGAL name and DNA-based sex. If a child wants to adopt a "nickname" and an "alter-identity" it would be a friendly courtesy to socially go along with chosen identity, but LEGAL and medical-biological DNA identity is immutable. You cannot make LAWS that violate existing LAWS. I am LAWFULLY Anthony Pranaitis even though all my patients, all my family and friends, and all my business contacts know me as Tony Pranaitis. I prefer Tony, but I am required to respond to Anthony when addressed in a LEGAL context (unless I go through the process of LEGALLY changing my name).

	If I believe deep in my heart that I am Batman, I can dress like Batman and drive my Batmobile and other behaviors consistent with my belief. But LEGALLY in a court of LAW everyone would still know me as ANTHONY PRANAITS. Reject HB 25-1312. Respectfully, Dr. Tony Pranaitis Golden, Colorado
Jenna Winkelhake Against themselves	Hello, my name is Jenna Winkelhake and I have called Colorado my home for five years, specifically Fort Collins. I am wife, expecting mother, and member of a Christian church community. I am writing to testify against HB25-1312 because I believe this is harmful to families and children, unconstitutional, and infringes upon religious liberty. I think classifying "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as "coercive control" is actually criminalizing biblical parenting and goes against religious freedom that our country holds to. The unconstitutional aspect of this bill relates to allowing Colorado courts to disregard laws from other states and allow one parents to pursue the medicalization of a child against the other parent's wishes. While my biblical beliefs ultimately are the reason I do not support "gender-affirming" treatments, I also think it is telling that there is no empirical evidence that show positive results from these surgeries. There are significant policy reversals across Europe (not based on religion) that are restricting medical transitions for minors. My heart in submitting a written testimony is to protect parents, families, and children in Colorado. I deeply care for the family-unit and this bill is threatening parents who love and care for their children. As a constituent, I urge Senators to vote no on HB25-1312. Please stand with families like mine and defend our religious freedoms to parent for ourselves.
Sarah Bolns For themselves	I urge you to vote yes on HB25-1312 in support of protecting transgender lives. Children and adults all deserve to be their true selves. They also deserve to be happy and safe. As a mental health employee, I can speak for the importance of this bill in protecting our transgender community. Mental health research shows that using a persons chosen name drastically decreases their risk of suicidal thoughts. I hope you'll join me in supporting this bill, for the safety and wellbeing of your community.
Cintya Patino Against themselves	The government needs to stop meddling in parent affairs. This bill is a dangerous overstep to the rights of parents and is actually quite harmful to children. Colorado has gone too woke and we need to scale back. This is why democrats lost in the 2024 election. Stop making Colorado another California.

Dan Koole Against themselves	I oppose HB 25-1312. Hundreds of people that I know oppose it as well. This bill is a slippery slope that must not be passed. Colorado is already moving in the wrong direction with many other bills, but this bill if passed will have wide-reaching negative implications for our state.
Bridget Weaks Against themselves	Dear Senators, My written testimony today is in strong opposition to HB25-1312. As a tax paying, law abiding constituent in good standing and mom of 3 sons, I demand that you vote NO on this garbage legislation. Not only does this bill undermine parental rights, create work arounds to child protection laws and encourage the grooming of children in school by imposing radical gender ideology in school, but it's also a massive attack on free speech and religious liberty. There are so many issues with this bill beginning with the secretive crafting of it about a year ago, the quiet introduction of it at a time it might have gone unnoticed, the very limited time before the house hearing so as to substantially limit testimony and now the question of when it might re-appear. Here we are! It's truly unbelievable. This bill seems to intend to further erode our rights and freedoms in Colorado. If this is NOT truly your intent, it is your duty and obligation to VOTE NO. If this is your intent, a yes vote will serve to confirm to all Coloradans your proud support of the erosion and destruction of our rights and freedoms. Vote NO. Respectfully, Bridget Weaks

Scott Jensen Against themselves	HB 1312 is an egregious governmental overreach threatening religious liberty, the rights of parents, and expanding state control into deeply personal areas of life. As a parent myself, I believe parents—not the government—are best equipped to guide their children through important issues. This is an attack on the freedoms of Colorado citizens. For this reason I urge you to vote NO on this bill.
Taylor Lucero For themselves	I support this bill, I have many friends and family members that identify as trans/non-binary. We all have preferred pronouns and names, whether it was given at birth or changed afterwards, and using others preferred pronouns and names is basic respect and common sense.
Gregory Matlak Against themselves	To all Colorado State Legislators: I write to you as a private citizen of the State of Colorado, and as an Orthodox Christian priest, to urge your vote against HB 25-1312, which strips parents of their God-given and universally-recognized rights to serve as guide and guardian of their children, and to guide their development according to the dictates of conscience and divine law. HB 25-1312 is an egregious departure not only from the deeply rooted moral sensibilities of our own nation, but also a radical departure from the mores of most every traditional land and culture on earth. HB 25-1312 does not even poll favorably with any major US political party. It is an extreme bill of the extreme end of one political party/movement, and as such, it has no place being forced upon the entire citizenry of a cosmopolitan society or State. This bill is nothing other than an extreme reaction, when cooler heads must needs prevail. Already in recent months several European nations have passed measures to protect children from transgender procedures and policies during their malleable childhood years. Yet certain Colorado activists, with HB 25-1312, seem to want to lead the world in imposing one, extremist vision upon all. How fundamentalist! Where is the "live and let live" in this bill? Again, I urge one and all to strike down this unpopular, deeply problematic, and utterly contemptible bill, for the good of all of the citizens of the great State of Colorado. Sincerely yours, Priest Gregory Matlak, Rector St Andrew Orthodox Church, Delta, CO

	saint-andrew.org
Rich Wright Against themselves	Dear Senate Judiciary Committee, I am writing to urge you not to pass this bill which intends to undermine and personally attack/disenfranchise my freedom of speech and parental rights in Colorado. I am a Christian parent and believe my right to name my children should be uninhibited or infringed upon by any government, bill, ideology, or agenda. I also believe in the two genders as created and sanctioned by God - male/female. Any act, ideology, or attempts to demonize parents via "misgendering" and/or "dead naming" is wrong, unlawful, unconstitutional and attempts to exert government over-reach and control in a family's business. Our government is "of the people, by the people, for the people" and strong families with little to no governmental infringement has been historically shown to function better and positively impact societies. In contrast, when governments intrude, usurp or attempt to exert overbearing unlawful acts - the opposite occurs. These governments across human history have only invited societal breakdowns, poverty, armed conflicts and the murdering/loss of countless lives. These governments are commonly known as "marxism", "socialism", "communism" and many others. The over-reach of parental controls and the freedom to raise our children as we see fit is being attacked and is unacceptable, unconstitutional, and wrong. I hope our elected lawmakers have the conviction, courage, and resolve to strike this disgusting bill down - so that all Coloradans from all walks of life, ethnicities, and backgrounds are protected to exercise their freedoms to be parents and raise their children in a nurturing and self-guided/directed way. This bill is divisive, invasive, and I hope all of you invest in the time and fight to pass laws that never allow another ideology like this to ever get passed. We need to protect our Republic, the people, and our children and future children. Thank you for taking time to read and consider my response. God Bless, grant you wisdom, and protect you all as you serve our great state of Colorado.
Benjamin Williams Against themselves	All of you ran for your positions with good intentions, wanting to do good for the people of our state. Good people do everything in their power to keep families together, knowing that even when there are disagreements, the children are still in a loving environment. Unfortunately, this HB 1312 is misguided and has the potential to destroy many families, with children being removed from their homes and no longer able to experience the loving comfort of their parents. I strongly urge those of

	you who are good hearted and care about Colorado families to either withdraw this bill or to vote NO against it. Thank you.
Edward Nolte Against himself	I appreciate your time in considering my testimony. I am fully against this measure for many reasons. This measure is an assault on children and at the same time an assault on the family unit. The preposterous notion that it is possible to change ones sex is one that defies logic and defies science. To then make laws based on that preposterous notion is nothing more than activism. This bill if it becomes law would be an assault on religious liberty. Parents of these children have the right to make decisions for their children in accordance with their religious beliefs and values. Can you imagine what it would be like to have the State threaten or even carry through on the threat of taking a child from the home. A parents job is to protect their children and I could see many unnecessary altercations if this becomes law. Lastly, this is just bad law and would likely be struck down by the courts. Colorado has enough going on that it certainly doesn't need to pursue bad law only to have it overturned.
Shannon Coenen Against himself	Dear Senate Judiciary Committee, As a Colorado citizen and registered voter, I urge you to VOTE NO to HB25-1312 "Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals." This bill is an affront to parental rights and a gross over-reach of governmental powers in the following ways: 1. Revokes custodial rights of parents for "deadnaming" or reinforcing biological gender of THEIR OWN CHILD. Parents hold the right to legally name their children. In fact, it is an expectation. Science itself backs biological gender. Parents who hold to the name they rightly gave their child and to affirm scientifically proven biological gender are not in the wrong. They are operating in logic. 2. Elevates the rights of minors at the expense of their parents' rights. This is not about protecting rights, this is about removing rights and handing those rights over to a minority-age population not holding developmental maturity to make such life-altering decisions. 3. Violates free speech by criminalizing anything perceived as "deadnaming" or "misgendering." It is not criminal to speak factually. Gender is biologically provable.

	To call someone by their legal name or use pronouns associated with biological gender is to speak factually. This bill seeks to criminalize those who do not cater to the personal preferences of an individual, and take it a step further to consider speech as abuse. Additionally, this bill includes a clause for requiring use of the "deadname" for legal identification purposes. This is doublespeak. You cannot criminalize one segment of the population while simultaneously making an exception to suit governmental purposes. 4. Harms the very population it seeks to protect. Up to 98% of minors struggling with gender identity come to accept their biological sex by adulthood. (https://genderresourceguide.com/wp-content/themes/genderresource/library/documents/NPRGFullDocumentPrintV17.pdf#page=13) Passing of this bill would strip away the timeframe for minors to potentially embrace their biological sex while also creating government-induced broken families through the revoking of custodial rights. Additionally, there is a 20x increase from the general population in suicide following gender reassignment surgery (https://genderresourceguide.com/wp-content/themes/genderresource/library/documents/NPRGFullDocumentPrintV17.pdf#page=13). This bill is not helping transgender minors. This bill is inflicting harm upon them. 5. Requires schools to adjust for student "chosen names" and gender expressions. Educators and administrators are under enough pressure to meet educational requirements for students. To require schools to adapt policies and dress codes to suit a small population 6. Allows for medical procedures without parental consent. Parents are responsible for the medical decisions of their own children. This bill seeks to remove that right and responsibility, and creates barriers for parents to act in their child's best interest. This bill does not protect Colorado's children and families. It harms them. In so many other areas of life, minors are subject to parental oversight and rules. Minors are legally prohibited from other activities, vices, and liberties due to their developmental immaturity. Why is it now considered ethical and right allow those same developmentally immature youth such choices as what this bill describes — and without any say from the parents who named them, raise them, financially support them, etc. What does it say of us as a State that we would consider endorsing a bill enforcing that adults are less capable of knowing what is best compared to their own children? Again, I urge you to VOTE NO to this bill.

	Sincerely, Shannon Coenen 4075 Little Valley Road Estes Park, CO 80517
Ron Kramer Against themselves	I am a neurologist--a brain doctor. I am ABMS certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN). I have numerous other certifications (available on request). I have treated many children over the years and that includes the years before I arrived in Colorado in 1990. The human brain is not fully developed in humans until, the early 20's--at the earliest. This is an standard accepted medical fact based on the most basic of brain tests and measures. For example the basic clinical EEG, a test around since the 1950s in medicine, does not reach maturity until after adolescence. To allow children under 18 years of age to make any medical decision without the full and written consent of the parents is frankly preposterous on the face of it. Allowing a child to make a behavioral health decision is a medical decision. It must be consented by the parents or the legal guardian of the child. No child can given CONSENT to a non-emergent MEDICAL, PSYCHIATRIC/BEHAVIORAL, OR SURGICAL procedure. They may be able to give or sign an ASSENT document which is entirely different. No physician that is motivated to be ethical (if not legal per DORA standards) would ever start any level of treatment or medical intervention (behavioral, medical, or surgical) without consulting and having consent by the parents. ONE LAST THING: I believe the PARENTS of a child have the right to name that child until that child reaches the age of majority. I do not think the STATE OF COLORADO has that right--or am I misguided on this non-medical issue?
Kevin Roberts Against themselves	As a parent of 2 young kids I find this an absolute over step of parental rights. This is going to far, parents have every right to disagree with their children and their spouses and to raise them how they best see fit. As a teen myself I was confused about all kinds of stuff, my parents helped me more than anyone, out of love, not state control. Some tough love and im grateful for it. I know for a fact that kids under 18 are very impressionable and can easily be swayed into things that aren't necessarily who they really are, look at gangs. Kids need to be able to be parented by

	their parents without worry of state oversight removing their children for things such as not agreeing with their child's opinion about life. A parent who is stable and fit to parent should not have these things used against them in court as an excuse from the spouse divorcing them over whatever to get custody.
Terry Shaver Against themselves	It appears that this is a bill that to my knowledge is trying to be passed while not following the law. It is a bill that to my knowledge has not passed through the first or second reading. And is trying to undermine the rights of the parents. I believe that it is the strength of the family unit that has made this country great. How can you tell a parent that they are not allowed to raise a child but they are responsible for their actions.
Stephen Griggs Against themselves	Our first amendment rights and freedom of religion is under attack with this bill. A child's parents know that their child was born either male or female. It's really not that complicated. We hold a biblical worldview, and we should be allowed to do so. It is not at all threatening. It is only for each child's best interests.
Ryan Swartzendruber Against themselves	Senators, HB25-1312 attempts to legislate away both reality and morality which is both impossible and evil. Gender dysphoria is a recognized mental condition where reality is shunned. When children shun reality we tolerate it for periods of time and call it 'pretend'. This bill takes a child's mental condition regarding reality, affirms it and insulates it. Not only does HB25-1312 further harm the individual with the condition, it legally forces their delusions on the entirety of the citizens of the state. It allows individuals to attempt to define reality for everyone else (again this is impossible). What a misguided bill! HB25-1312 harms the children it purports to help while forcing the rest of the state to continue harming the child by compelling speech both in public and private. Reality will not change with this bill or the speech it compels, and in trying to do so HB25-1312 shows itself as anti-reality, anti-family and anti-human, it is evil on display. It is, of course, unconstitutional in its forced speech as well. In what world does the Colorado state legislature believe it can put a child's dysphoric beliefs above those of the parents and place itself in that gap? The answer is an immoral and evil state legislature. HB25-1312 is immoral. Another way to describe immorality is: evil. In the legislature placing itself between parents and children we see that the state believes it can replace the parents. When the state replaces the parents (specifically the Father) with themselves they put themselves in a God position for the child (both physically and spiritually). The state is not God, the state is not the parent, the state can not and will not determine the beliefs and speech of the parents. HB25-1312 is legalized kidnapping. HB25-1312 is immoral for all Coloradans!

	Uphold your oath, and be thankful there is a hell for those who vote for this bill, Ryan Swartzendruber
Angela Maurer Against themselves	My name is Angela Maurer. I'm a wife, mother, entrepreneur, and homeschooler in the Jefferson County area. I strongly oppose HB25-1312 and am concerned about the extreme government overreach it entails. Parenting is one of the hardest and most rewarding jobs a person could have. As a Christian I believe that our children are a blessing that God has given me to steward, minister, guide and instill truth. This bill takes that right away from me as a mother. And if this bill never effects me directly, it's one more step in the direction of removing more freedoms and parental rights. HB25-1312 represents an overreach by the government in a way that could seriously infringe on individual and religious freedoms. The government should not be dictating how we define gender or forcing individuals and organizations to act in a way that contradicts their deeply held beliefs. While protecting people from discrimination is important, this bill goes too far by imposing a specific social agenda on everyone, especially when it comes to religious organizations and private citizens. For example, as a Christian, I believe that my faith shapes how I understand gender and marriage, and I should be free to live out those beliefs without fear of legal consequences. If this bill forces religious schools, businesses, or even individuals like me to recognize or accommodate transgender identities in ways that conflict with my faith, I see that as an infringement on my rights. The government should not be able to force me to act against my conscience or speech, particularly when those actions go against my core religious convictions. This kind of government overreach is not just an attack on religious freedom but also on the principle that individuals should be free to live according to their beliefs. It creates an environment where people can no longer express their views on gender and marriage without the threat of legal action. To me, that's a serious violation of both religious freedom and free speech, which are supposed to be protected by the Constitution. I ask you to vote NO on this bill. Thank you. With concern, Angela Maurer
Katherine Reeves Against themselves	HB25-1312 claims within its text to be in accordance with the best interests of the child. However, it considers only one point of view, that of the Transgender community, or those who support the theory of Transgenderism. These highly controversial procedures of renaming children to agree with their desire to become the opposite sex, administering puberty blockers and performing transgender surgeries have only recently been brought into the mainstream. This does not mean that most of society, or even the average individual, agrees with these procedures. In fact, the opposite is still true.

	This radical ideology gained a foothold through mass indoctrination, first of teachers being trained in universities, then of children in public schools. To tell a child that he or she may have been born in the wrong body defies biological truth, and therefore is a lie. To affirm a person's mental illness is not caring, but is actually abusive. The number of individuals who regret taking puberty blockers and receiving transgender surgeries is large, and growing. Our Constitution protects our God-given freedoms. HB25-1312 is not only unconstitutional, but discriminates against Christians and other sane people. Most of the people of Colorado would agree: 1. Referring to an individual by their birth name shall not be defined as "Deadnaming". 2. Children need their parents, and when at all possible, they need to see both of their parents, even in cases of divorce. 3. The government has no authority to take children out of good, loving homes, especially based on a political agenda or aberrant medical practice. 4. Government has no business making policy regarding a school's dress code. Please consider these comments when voting, and please vote against HB25-1312.
Salam Hindawi Against themselves	My name's Salam and I'm writing a testimony to express not only my objection to this egregious attack on the Truth but also my deep anger seeing child abuse being legitimized and voices of reality silenced. I'm from Syria, born and raised, and I've been in the US for about 11 years. Gender activists claim transgenderism has always been known and accepted by non-Western peoples. Well, they're lying and nothing can be further from the Truth. If you go to Syria right now and tell people that boys can be girls 'inside' you'd be their laughing stock for sure! In fact, if you set foot outside of Western societies you'd hardly come across anyone confused about their gender; because this is a social contagion being promoted by nefarious players, obviously, and research and investigation have proven that. Transgenderism is a Marxist, post-Modernist fabrication propped up by greedy drug companies and corrupt doctors. It's being enabled by power-hungry politicians like the ones who sponsored this terrible bill. I'd like to ask those who sponsor this bill: If I'm supposed to affirm my boy's gender delusions that he's a girl, what if he's suffering schizophrenia? Should I also affirm his multiple personalities? What if my boy identifies as disabled? Should I take him to a corrupt doctor to chop off his legs to affirm his 'identity'? If being trans is an inherent identity, then why the need for affirmation and drugs? Is this how identities work?

	I know none of you has any coherent answer, and it goes to show your intellectual and moral bankruptcy. Shameful! There are at least 13 studies that have proven kids with gender dysphoria can grow out of it naturally by puberty. No need for any so-called affirmation or medical intervention. Anyone who says otherwise is a liar. When I was a kid, I used to wear my mom's high heels and run around the house. Thank God I grew up in a Third World country not surrounded by evil people trying to erase basic biological truths. Otherwise, I'd end up with a mutilated body and tons of psychological harm. This bill is a blatant attack on the integrity of families and freedom of speech. If passed, I promise you we will take the fight to the courts. Transgenderism is a dangerous ideology that leads to harm and suicide. We will fight it and we shall win!
Beth Capriz Against themselves	Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony today. My name is Beth and I am a parent, a person of faith, and a citizen deeply concerned about the direction our state is taking when it comes to laws affecting our children and our families. Today I testify in opposition to Colorado's transgender policy initiatives, particularly those that seek to restrict or override parental involvement in a child's decisions regarding gender identity, or that compel actions in conflict with religious convictions. As a parent, I believe that my fundamental right—and duty—is to guide the upbringing, care, and well-being of my child. When the state inserts itself between a parent and their child on matters as personal and complex as gender identity, it undermines the family unit and erodes trust. We are not talking about routine medical procedures or school policies—we are talking about irreversible medical interventions, emotional decisions, and deeply personal beliefs. Parents must have the final say in these matters. Second, as a person of faith, I believe that every person is created with purpose and dignity. My religious beliefs teach me that gender is not fluid or self-defined, but a part of God's intentional design. When laws are written in ways that compel individuals, schools, churches, and organizations to act against their conscience—whether through language use, curriculum mandates, or forced participation in gender-transition practices—it becomes a direct violation of our First Amendment right to freely exercise religion. No one should be forced to choose between following their faith and obeying the law.

	Let me be clear: I oppose discrimination and bullying of any kind. Every child should be treated with respect and compassion. But that respect must extend to parents and people of faith as well. We cannot create an inclusive environment by excluding or marginalizing those who hold traditional or religious views on gender. In closing, I urge you to reconsider the scope and implications of these laws. Protect parental rights. Uphold religious liberty. And most importantly, allow families—not the state—to make these deeply personal decisions. Thank you
Ronda Morris Against themselves	Good morning, my name is Ronda Morris, and I strongly oppose HB25-1312. This bill forces schools to erase any recognition of biological differences by mandating gender-neutral dress codes—overriding the rights of parents, students, and local communities. As an employee in a public Colorado School I see the consequences of the immoral decisions that are being forced/ implemented on society today. This is not the best course if we truly care about educating and producing successful young adults. Let's get back to education and keep politics out of it. It compels children to comply with state-defined views on gender, ignoring families with religious, cultural, or moral convictions about male and female identity. This is not about inclusion—it's about coercion. HB25-1312 punishes those who believe in biological truth and forces silence on anyone who disagrees. Freedom of conscience, parental authority, and educational integrity are all at stake. I urge you to reject this dangerous overreach.
Veronica Gaylord Against themselves	As native Coloradan, I am writing to express our deep concern and firm opposition to House Bill 25-1312—a dangerous proposal that undermines parental rights, threatens religious liberty, and seeks to enshrine radical gender ideology into Colorado law. If passed, HB25-1312 would allow courts to consider a parent's refusal to affirm a child's so-called "gender identity" as a form of "coercive control." This includes using a child's legal name or biologically accurate pronouns—an act the bill implicitly defines as harmful, even abusive. Such language would empower the state to intervene in family life and, in some cases, even remove children from the custody of loving parents who refuse to embrace a lie.

	Ironically, the legislation takes extra care to protect public entities from legal consequences when using a child's legal name for "legitimate public purposes." This contrast sends a chilling message: the state is to be shielded, while parents are to be punished. The implication is clear—parents are disposable, but the state is supreme. This must be rejected. The God-ordained family unit—not the government—is the foundation of a healthy society. Mothers and fathers are uniquely called to rear and guide their children with love, truth, and care. When the state begins to usurp this role, not only does it trample upon parental rights—it assumes a godlike authority over human identity, morality, and family structure. Christians, and Americans across our nation, recognize this for what it is: a direct assault on truth and the authority of God. No government has the right to compel parents to affirm falsehoods or penalize them for adhering to their faith and biology. Scripture is clear—every person is created by God, male or female (Genesis 1:27), and no amount of medication, surgery, or political redefinition can alter the inescapable reality of God's design. Furthermore, indoctrinating children with ideologies that deny biological truth is not compassion—it is cruelty. It confuses their identity, harms their development, and often leads to lifelong physical and emotional scars. No law should criminalize parents for lovingly telling their children the truth. The Danbury Institute urges the Colorado General Assembly to reject HB25-1312 in its entirety. This bill represents a grave overreach of state power and a fundamental threat to parental authority and religious freedom. It is the responsibility of lawmakers to protect children—not politicize them, and to defend the family—not dismantle it. We ask you to stand on the side of truth, biology, freedom of conscience, and the God-given rights of parents. Veronica Gaylord

Alicia Clancy Against themselves	I'm writing to express my deep concern about HB-1312. As both a follower of Christ and a Coloradan, I believe this bill raises serious issues regarding religious liberty and parental rights. While Scripture is clear on God's design and purpose for every human life—knowing us before we were born and knitting us together in our mothers' wombs (Psalm 139)—my primary concern here is not doctrinal, but constitutional. HB-1312 appears to infringe upon the religious freedoms of families who are seeking to live out their faith convictions in their own homes. Our country was founded on the principle of religious liberty, and this bill threatens to blur the line between public policy and private conviction. I urge you to consider the impact this legislation could have on families of faith across Colorado. Please stand against HB-1312. Thank you for your service and for listening to the voices of your constituents. Alicia Clancy
Emily Hastings For themselves	Please pass the Kelly Loving Act to enshrine the rights of transgender people in Colorado. Colorado is a beacon through the darkness of the current federal administration. At a time when the right has made transgender people the target of hate and discrimination, it is our duty to stand up for what is right. The Kelly Loving Act is a small step toward alleviating the discrimination and fear our transgender friends, family, and neighbors face every day. Colorado must set the example for the nation and stand against hate.
Josiah Goodley Against themselves	Chair, Members of the Committee, Thank you for hearing testimony today. I am here to deliver a simple but urgent message: HB25-1312 is an unconstitutional power grab that would obliterate the rights of free speech, free thought, and free association in the State of Colorado. This bill does not regulate conduct. It regulates belief. It does not protect the public. It protects power. Under the plain text of the First Amendment — and reinforced through decades of Supreme Court precedent — any law infringing upon free expression must survive the most exacting constitutional standard: strict scrutiny. HB25-1312 does not come close. It is hopelessly vague, inviting arbitrary enforcement; it is impermissibly

	overbroad, punishing speech that the government simply disfavors; and it fails to pursue any narrowly tailored, compelling interest, as the law demands. HB25-1312 criminalizes dissent by design. It chills the marketplace of ideas, where free citizens debate, challenge, and hold their government accountable. Instead of empowering Coloradans to exercise their rights, it forces them to self-censor to survive. If this bill passes, every citizen who speaks, gathers, or publishes in opposition to the prevailing political orthodoxy will live under the threat of government investigation and sanction. That is not democracy. That is authoritarianism, cloaked in legislative language. Let me be clear: this is not a matter of left or right, progressive or conservative. This is a matter of liberty versus control. Of government by the people versus government over the people. I urge this committee: uphold your oath. Defend the Constitution. Protect the rights of the people you were elected to serve. Reject HB25-1312 without hesitation, without compromise, and without apology. Thank you.
Joseph Pero Against himself	This bill is more than just legislation. It threatens to crush the authority of loving parents, who only want to guide their children with compassion and truth. It silences the voices of families and individuals, pushing a dangerous political ideology that disregards common sense and our fundamental liberties. Every parent has an unwavering right to nurture, protect, and shape their child's future. These are God-given rights that are the very foundation of our freedom. This bill tramples on those rights, stripping away the power and love that define family lives. Please stand firm in defense of freedom, for the integrity of families, and the principles enshrined in our Constitution. Please vote NO on HB25-1312.
Tyler Flageolle Against himself	As a life long Colorado resident and as a concerned parent in the way the State of Colorado is going, I strongly oppose HB25-1312. This bill is a total over reach of the Colorado State government into the lives of everyday people and in particular parents and their children. The ideology behind the LGBTQ movement is so damaging and destructive to the family structure and this bill makes that obvious. Transgenderism in particular goes against basic biology that defines us as we were

	created in the image of God. It is impossible to change that no matter how many hormones are taken or blocked, or how many surgeries one may try to obtain, and leaves life long irreversible changes to one's body. The proper role of government should be to protect families and children from such damaging ideology, not to enforce it and propagate it, and then when parents disagree and try to protect their children from it have legislation such as this to try and take their children away. Any society where government tries to drive a wedge between children and their parents, as always been on the wrong side of history. I pray and plead that we as the State of Colorado would not do so.
Kimberly Applebee Against themselves	I pray and ask that the State of Colorado elected officials uphold the rights of parents to raise their children according to THEIR religious beliefs and practices and nobody else's. The separation of church and state as outlined in the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" is being threatened. To say educational institutions must not impose a gender-specific dress code and must acknowledge a preferred pronoun goes against the beliefs of Christians and Christian organizations. You must uphold the rights of all Americans. Not simply the loudest minority. As elected officials, your job is to protect the freedom of all Coloradoans. I demand you represent fairly. Please vote NO on this Bill.
Kathy Jackson For themselves	I am writing this testimony in support of the Kelly Loving Act. I am a mother of a trans child and I am a mental health therapist who works with clients who have a severe trauma history and some of my clients are also trans. The Kelly Loving Act is very important to me because I see this bill as an opportunity to ease the fears of many families in Colorado as the hate for trans people rises in the US. I have worked hard to insure my children to feel accepted and loved at home and at school, but due to the hate speech and the misinformation about the trans community I have a growing fear that I will not be able to insure my trans daughter will continue to feel accepted and loved in her school community. My daughter's school has been such a big support and player in helping my daughter have the environment she needs to feel safe and thrive in her education. The reason for this is because she does not have to worry about being herself there. She is able to use the bathroom she wants, wear the clothes that help her to feel comfortable, and be called the name she identifies with. The reason these things are so important for trans children, is that when these needs are not met they will undergo distress and trauma because their identity is being rejected in one of the places they spend most of their young life in. Before my daughter fully came out at school she was not going to the bathroom all day and was having more issues concentrating in class. She desperately wanted others to truly see her for who she really is and to feel comfortable in her own body. The school was amazing in their ability to help her feel accepted and wanted. I'm am so scared for my daughter to lose this at her school because of how this current administration is targeting schools that want to protect children in vulnerable populations. This bill will insure that my

	daughter's and all trans kids' mental health will be protected at their school, so they all can have the education and safety that every child deserves. This bill is also important to me because it will protect the child's voice in custody proceedings. I was a child that experienced a lot of trauma living with my mom and never had the chance to choose who I lived with or have a voice to speak about my safety living with her. I believe this bill protects a child's voice to speak to how they feel when they are misgendering or deadnamed by a parent. This is important because trans people express the most trauma from a parent that doesn't accept them or respect them. This type of trauma is something that I have my trans clients reprocess through because of how it negatively affects their self confidence and their ability to accept themselves. Trauma from a parent is one of the most difficult types of trauma for a person to recover from. The passing of this bill is extremely important to me and all the parents who want to support their trans children. We have a right to want our children to feel accepted and safe in their day to day just like every child. Most importantly, every trans child has a right to their voices to be heard. I thank you so much for your time and your consideration in this matter.
Cindy Grubenhoff For themselves	Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, My name is Cindy Grubenhoff, I use she/her pronouns, and I live in Aurora 80016. I'm a parent of a trans and nonbinary young adult, and I'm writing to express my strong support for HB25-1312 – The Kelly Loving Act. I know firsthand how important it is to protect transgender kids from being deadnamed and misgendered because my kiddo (they/them pronouns) identifies as trans and nonbinary. They began going by a new name and pronouns a few years ago, and in June of 2023 they legally changed their name and gender marker on state issued identification. Now they are 19, attending college, and thriving, but I believe they would not have survived high-school if the support they sought had been unavailable. I don't say that as a colloquialism - my child was suicidal and had a plan to end their life. But finding support from me, their therapist, and their doctors was the hope they needed to survive. I know, without ANY doubt, that supporting their transition was the best thing for their mental and physical health. I can't imagine how unsafe and terrifying it would have been for both of us if the state was trying to remove them from my care specifically because of my support. I felt so glad, at the time, that my child didn't attend a school that required a gender- based dress code.

	Colorado has made powerful progress in protecting LGBTQ+ rights—but many of those protections still rely on administrative rules. Without action, that progress can be undone with the stroke of a pen. This bill locks in those protections and makes it possible to fight intentional discriminatory practices. Everyone deserves access to live and learn and use the name and pronouns they choose, without shame, stigma, or fear. No one should have their rights taken away because of who they are. No one should have their child taken away because of excellent and supportive parenting. I urge you to vote YES on HB25-1312. This bill is about protecting children and families as they navigate a gender-affirming journey. It's about stability, safety, and making sure Colorado continues to lead with dignity and fairness for all communities. Thank you for your time, service, and commitment to the people of Colorado. Sincerely, Cindy Grubenhoff she/her 80016 Parent of a trans nonbinary individual
Jill VanderMeer Against themselves	I am a wife and mother to 3 small children in Jefferson County. I am against this bill. It is unconstitutional in nature, it is a slap in the face to parental rights, and goes against freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Parents have the God given right to direct the upbringing of their children and the STATE cannot take that away with the swipe of a pen. The government overreach in this bill is astounding. You have an entire nation following this bill to see how democrats can author such an egregious bill that is blatantly un-American at its core. This isn't about "transgender rights" and you are well aware of that. This is a blatant attack on parental rights and the family. This is AMERICA. We have a Constitutional Republic. This is not a communist country. You were elected to represent your CONSTITUENTS, not your personal agenda to erode families and destroy healthy children. You will each be held accountable for your actions if you pass this unconstitutional bill. One day you will give an account to Almighty God whether you believe in Him or not. You will stand before Him and have to give an account for every thought, action, deed, word and even voting for this bill be one the "list." And trust me, you do not want to be an enemy of the most Holy God that created your very body you breathe from. PLEASE, for the love of ALL

	things you love in your life, save children and let parents actually be the ones to care for their children. Also, if you look at this bill and you end up taking children away from their parents, where are they going to go? We have enough children in the foster care system in this state and in this country. Do you really want to add millions of children to that system? You will most definitely screw up our state and our country with that. History has shown and proven that people who come from a stable family with two loving parents end up much better in life than that of those that come from divorced families or torn apart families. You will be destroying your own state and country by voting for this bill. Let children stay with their parents and let them make the decisions that are best for them. Mind your own business and take care of your own household. You will be accountable for that-- how are you doing there? If you aren't doing well, then the last thing you need to do is strip that right away from other parents. PLEASE, vote NO against this bill- HB25-1312. Signed- Concerned parent, teacher, citizen and Jefferson County Mama!
Kelsey Rosenoff Against themselves	Dear Senators, I am writing to beg you to VOTE NO on HB 1312, a heartbreaking and unimaginable bill that would potentially force parents to lie to their very own children or have them forcibly removed from them. Not only parents, but all Americans, would lose the freedom to speak truthfully and according to their own conscience. One of the tenants of our country--the United States of America--is the right to free speech. This bill strips away these liberties, putting us all at risk and forcing us to affirm the beliefs of a small minority of individuals. No one in the United States of America should be forced to celebrate the beliefs of others or face horrific consequences. This abuse of power undermines our entire foundation of liberty. This bill would also have dire consequences for the marketplace of Colorado as businesses and schools would be forced to enforce radical gender policies that undermine science, reason, and religious freedom. Who would act as the gestapo police enforcing these confusing and disorienting rules? How will people be afraid even to address one another at all? Which businesses will be fed up and decide to flee our state in order to avoid the confusion and danger? We can already see what these kind of policies have done to the economies of California and Minnesota. Why thwart and confuse the Colorado marketplace and lay unnecessary burdens upon it?

	Our government should not be looking for ways to punish parents who care about and love their kids. Instead, let's spend our time and energy supporting parents in the difficult, but rewarding, task of raising solid kids. Please, STOP pushing and encouraging people to be easily-offended. We do not appreciate the people who are supposed to work for the people, coming against the people in such a blatant disregard of Truth, liberty, and constitutional rights. Thank you for caring more about doing what's RIGHT than falling to peer pressure. Kelsey Rosenoff Windsor, CO
Riese Rosw For themselves	Thank you, Chair and members of the committee, for the opportunity to share my testimony. My name is Riese Rose, and I am here to express my strong support for House Bill 25-1312, the Kelly Loving Act. This legislation represents a significant step forward in affirming the rights and dignity of transgender individuals in Colorado. By explicitly defining deadnaming and misgendering as discriminatory acts under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, the bill acknowledges the harm these practices inflict and provides a clear legal framework to address them. In family law, the bill's provisions are crucial. It requires courts to consider actions like deadnaming and misgendering as forms of coercive control in child custody decisions. This ensures that such behaviors are recognized for their potential to harm and manipulate, thereby protecting the best interests of the child. It's important to note that HB25-1312 does not infringe upon parental rights but rather seeks to protect children from harmful behaviors that can negatively affect their mental health and development. By recognizing and addressing these issues, the bill fosters a more supportive environment for all children, regardless of their gender identity. Furthermore, the bill safeguards parents who support their children's access to gender-affirming care from punitive actions based on out-of-state laws. This protection is vital in ensuring that Colorado families are not subjected to external legal pressures that conflict with our state's commitment to affirming transgender rights. I urge the committee to pass HB25-1312 and continue Colorado's tradition of leading in the protection of civil rights for all its residents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elizabeth Cockrill Taylor Against themselves	Dear Representative Garcia and other Colorado Congressional members, I wish to express my extreme disagreement with HB25-1312 due to its utter disregard for parental rights and its potential for great harm to children in Colorado. This bill aims to prosecute parents for child abuse if they "misgender" or "deadname" their children. This measure is extreme, and will undoubtedly lead to much greater physical and psychological harm to children who may be removed from parents' care and subsequently placed in the care of state-sanctioned care providers. This bill is absolutely horrific and must not be allowed to pass a Senate vote. Please kill the bill HB25-1312 and save Colorado children from any future harm.
Ralph Morrison Against themselves	I am against House Bill 25-1312 for the following reasons. It will undermine parental rights, it will circumvent child protection laws, it will impose gender ideology in schools and it will attack free speech and religious liberty. This bill is in violation of everything I believe.
Molly Wass Against themselves	Dear Committee Members, My name is Molly Wass I reside in Denver CO. and I am a parent to 4 children. I stand before you to oppose House Bill 25-1312, a measure that threatens the fundamental rights of parents and the well-being of our children. This bill, while presented as a step toward inclusivity, oversteps boundaries and sets a dangerous precedent that undermines family autonomy and free speech. First, HB25-1312 labels actions like "deadnaming" or "misgendering" as forms of coercive control in child custody disputes. These terms, rooted in subjective interpretations, could penalize parents for simply questioning or not affirming a child's gender identity. Parenting involves guiding children through complex decisions, and this bill risks punishing parents for exercising their judgment in what they believe is their child's best interest. By equating disagreement with abuse, the state is inserting itself into deeply personal family matters, eroding the sacred bond between parent and child. Second, the bill prohibits Colorado courts from recognizing other states' laws that might remove a child from a parent for allowing gender-affirming care. While protecting access to medical care is important, this provision dismisses the legitimate concerns of other jurisdictions and could incentivize parents to bypass critical oversight, potentially rushing children into irreversible medical decisions without proper consideration. Children deserve careful, thoughtful guidance, not state-driven ideology that sidelines dissenting voices. Finally, by mandating the use of chosen names in public forms and defining certain speech as discriminatory, this bill treads dangerously close to compelled speech. It risks chilling honest dialogue and punishing those who hold differing views, a direct affront to our First Amendment rights. In conclusion, HB25-1312 prioritizes ideology over family unity and individual freedom. We must protect parental rights, safeguard children from hasty decisions, and preserve open discourse. I urge you to oppose this bill and stand for the principles that keep our families and freedoms strong. Thank you

Pauline Brookhaus Against themselves	To the Honorable Senators on the Judiciary Committee: As a citizen of the great state of Colorado, I declare that I am opposed to HB25-1312. This bill poses a direct threat to our First Amendment rights - specifically: religious liberty, parental authority and the freedom to live and speak openly in accordance with biblical truth. This bill empowers courts to punish parents, pastors, and schools who refuse to affirm gender identities that contract both God's word AND biological reality. This bill targets those who lovingly stand for truth - that God created humanity male and female - a truth rooted in the Scriptures AND in science AND thousands of years of human understanding. Everyone of you who supports this bill will one day stand before the judgment seat of Almighty God Colorado can and must protect vulnerable individuals WITHOUT punishing parents, pastors, churches or Christian schools for holding biblical beliefs. Colorado should remain a place where compassion and freedom coexist, not where one is sacrifice for the other.
Mia Carrasco-Songer For themselves	Hello, I am reaching out in support of HB25-1312 as a bill that keeps schools safe and supportive places for our transgender students. My name is Mia Carrasco-Songer, I am a long-time resident of southwest Colorado and work as a therapist, including with clients in the LGBTQ+ community. As a mental health professional, I see the impact that fear and uncertainty have on young people when their physical and/or emotional safety is at risk because of part of their identity. This bill helps create conditions in school that let students know that they are safe and supported. This makes an important difference in students' brains being in a state capable of learning and contributing at their fullest potential as well as serving as a protective factor in preventing teen suicide. Thank you for your thoughtful and hard work on this issue.
Macey Hickox Against themselves	This bill is a huge government overreach infringing on our first amendment rights as parents for freedom of speech. It is not the role of the government to teach young children gender ideology, which can be considered a spiritual/religious practice that should be separate from government and against my rights to religious freedom. Keep it out of school and save it for the home.
Timothy Adams Against	To whom it may concern: I am writing this testimony in opposition of bill HB25-1312. This is an abomination of a law. If this bill passes it would take away parental rights and bring

themselves	fear to parents who are actually parenting the way they want to. It would take away religious freedoms based on the idea that there are two genders and no one should be forced to recognize gender identity. Parents are the ones who should be involved in the medical and psychological well being for their child, and this would have parents with less say over the well being of their child. I am a teacher and the idea that I would be forced to comply with this law would go against my religious and personal convictions. Don't sign this bill into law; it must not pass.
David Hurr Against themselves	Please vote against HB25-1312. This bill violates the rights of parents in caring for their children, The state has no right to force liberal, insane, evil agenda on children. I am so very tired of the State of Colorado violating the rights of the citizens of this State and America. Your job is to protect the rights of the citizens and safeguard our children. A return to common sense is greatly needed. Please vote no on HB-1312. David J. Hurr
Megan Harrison Against themselves	If you need verbiage for written testimony, this is what I wrote: HB25-1312 threatens free speech, religious liberty, and parental rights enshrined in the 14th Amendment, which guards "life, liberty, or property" against state overreach without due process. The Supreme Court has long upheld parents' rights to direct their children's upbringing. Our representatives refused to take comment and ignored our Constitutional rights in order to proceed with a policy that requires parents to affirm their children's gender ideology or lose custody of them. You would think to impose such strong consequences, there must be a scientific basis, but there isn't. The concept of transgenderism was introduced by Dr. John Money who was approached by a family who had twin boys, one of whom was castrated during a botched circumcision. John Money instructed the family to raise their castrated son as a girl. He studied and sexually abused the boys for years, and touted it as a wild success to the medical community despite signs of deep mental health issues and the boy's discomfort being raised as a girl. One of the sons committed suicide, the other died of an overdose, but this one horrendous study is the cornerstone of the transgender movement. It is hardly a success story and there is no other scientific basis for transgender theory. Real science tells us there are two sexes, no genders, and infinite personalities. Any sane, loving parent would refuse to lie to their child or take them down a path of irreversible harm. The American College of Pediatrics warns that medical interventions cause harm. Puberty blockers risk decreased bone density and underdeveloped genital tissue which can effect sexual function and result in sterility; cross-sex hormones may cause clots, heart disease, or strokes; surgeries risk infection, guarantee scars and lost function like inability to breastfeed. Studies—like Dhejne (2011) showing a 19.1-times-higher suicide rate post-surgery and a 2021 Frontiers in Psychiatry report on worsening suicidal ideation—suggest these interventions don't heal but harm. At the same time, many studies show that one of the best predictors of success is growing up in a two parent household. We should be doing everything we can to keep families together. It is unconscionable to separate a child from their family over unproven, anti-scientific ideology. This extreme bill infringes on our rights, has no scientific support, causes turmoil in kid's

	lives, and destroys families. Coloradans will not sit back and take this. Hands off our kids!
Kevin Noe Against himself	Good afternoon, I am not just as a citizen of Colorado, but as a Christian, a father and a grand father—and I cannot and will not stay silent. I oppose House Bill 25-1312 with everything I have. This bill is a direct assault on the family, on faith, and on freedom. It dares to call loving, truth-telling parents "abusers" if they refuse to go along with gender ideologies that deny the biological reality God created. It threatens to tear children away from parents who are simply doing what God commands — raising them in truth and love. Make no mistake: the state is not the parent. God alone gives that responsibility to mothers and fathers. Not politicians. Not bureaucrats. Not activists. When the government tries to insert itself between a parent and child, it crosses a sacred line. It is an offense not only to family but to God Himself. HB 1312 would force Christians, churches, and faith-based schools to bow to a lie or face discrimination lawsuits. It weaponizes the law against anyone who dares to speak the truth in love — that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, male and female, by the hand of a holy Creator. As Christians, we are called to be a voice for the voiceless — and right now, parents are being silenced, truth is being criminalized, and children are being confused and harmed in the name of false compassion. This is not progress. This is state-sponsored rebellion against God's design. I urge every lawmaker with a shred of courage left: reject this bill. Stand for families. Stand for truth. Stand for freedom. Stand before God and do what is right. Enough is enough. Thank you.
Cherie Hagan Against himself	I urge you to vote against HB25-1312. Parents are the guiding light in our children's lives and to potentially take away our rights as parents is too far of an over-reach. Children that are considering or exploring their gender need parents support and should walking that journey with their kids not at risk for losing custody. It's a private medical issue that should be a family matter and not in the hands of the government. Vote NO on HB25-1312
Miles Dinsmore For	Testimony in Support of HB25-1312 – The Kelly Loving Act

themselves	Good afternoon, Chairperson and Members of the Committee. My name is Miles Dinsmore, and I am a resident of Thornton, Colorado. I am expressing my strong support for HB25-1312, the Kelly Loving Act. This legislation is a vital step toward ensuring that all Coloradans, regardless of gender identity, are afforded the dignity, respect, and legal protections they deserve. Protecting Children and Families HB25-1312 recognizes the importance of affirming a child's gender identity within family structures. By considering actions such as deadnaming and misgendering as forms of coercive control in custody decisions, the bill prioritizes the emotional and psychological well-being of transgender youth. This approach aligns with recommendations from leading medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, which emphasize the necessity of supportive environments for the healthy development of transgender children. Safeguarding Parental Rights The bill ensures that parents who support their children's access to gender-affirming care are not penalized due to conflicting laws in other states. By prohibiting Colorado courts from enforcing out-of-state orders that seek to remove children from affirming parents, HB25-1312 upholds the rights of families to make informed healthcare decisions without fear of legal repercussions. Promoting Inclusive Educational Environments In our schools, it's imperative that every student feels seen and respected. HB25-1312 mandates that educational institutions adopt inclusive policies regarding chosen names and dress codes, ensuring that students can express their identities safely and authentically. Such inclusive practices have been shown to improve mental health outcomes and academic performance among transgender and non-binary students. Addressing Discrimination in Public Spaces By defining deadnaming and misgendering as discriminatory acts under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, this bill reinforces our state's commitment to

	equality and respect for all individuals. It sends a clear message that intentional misidentification in public accommodations is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Conclusion The Kelly Loving Act is more than just legislation; it's a testament to Colorado's dedication to protecting its most vulnerable residents. By passing HB25-1312, we affirm our state's values of inclusivity, respect, and justice for all. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Virginia Chairez Against themselves	This bill strips the first amendment rights of Americans and violates the true purpose of title 9 simply to cater to one small group. Should Colorado try to force this bill though against the will of the people and rule of the current federal government, Coloradoan's will pay the price. On a personal level, I am a mother and am disturbed by our state government egregiously removing parental rights, this bill is unconstitutional and a gross government overreach in too many ways to count.
Robert DeMaria Against themselves	Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am writing to ask to you oppose HB25-1312 which would be life damaging for minors who are incapable of making sound decisions at an age below 18 and in many cases even later. The prefrontal cortex is one of the last brain regions to mature, continuing its development well into the mid-20s. Therefore, children under 18 have many restrictions on them in life, they cannot vote, they cannot drink, they cannot sign for themselves without a guardian. Why would we let the Colorado Courts to undermine parental authority by threatening to take children from their parent's custody? This violates a family's first amendment rights to freedom of speech and religion which is paramount to our nation's founding. The courts and legislature do not pro-create, only a man and woman can do that. It is a God given gift and the development, raising, and care for children is inherently given to parents and parents alone. This bill seriously damages the child/parent relationship by involving Colorado courts to impose their will on the parents. In addition, it imposes burdens on schools and teachers asking them to focus on promoting gender indoctrination over education. I strongly urge you to protect children and families which are the bedrock of societies from this misguided bill.

	Thank You Robert DeMaria
Chandra Adams Against themselves	HB 25-1312 must not continue. This bill is a direct attack on parental rights, freedom of speech, and even religious freedoms. It goes directly against the constitution of the United States and rights we have under such. This bill takes away the freedom to raise one's OWN children the way we see fit and even brings fear of one's children being taken away for using the wrong name. This bill will force all to comply with policies that violate religious or personal convictions, and removes free speech. This directly violates the 1st amendment of the Constitution that says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press..." This bill does just that. Regardless of your direct stance on gender ideology, you should be against this bill because it violates not only parental rights, but freedom of speech and religion. This bill reminds me more of Nazi Germany than the U.S.A, land of free. If the bill was reversed, say that pushing Christianity, or forces that those religious beliefs must be pushed and affirmed, and if you child wants to be a Christian, you must take them to church, etc. It wouldn't have even made it this far. This isn't about gender ideology; it is about protecting everyone's Constitutional rights.
Scott Fassett For themselves	My name is Scott Fassett, I use he/him pronouns, and I live in Broomfield 80023. I'm a parent of a trans child, and I'm writing to express my strong support for HB25-1312 – The Kelly Loving Act. I know firsthand how important it is to protect transgender kids from being deadnamed and misgendered because my kiddo (he/him pronouns) is trans. He began going by a new name and pronouns in 1st grade (6 years ago) and whether or not they were honored had a huge impact on his mental and physical health. I know, without doubt, that supporting my child's transition has the best thing for his health and happiness. He's thriving now with our support and gender-affirming care. It's terrifying to think that under the new Executive Order steps could be taken to remove him from my care specifically because of my support. This would cause him irreparable harm. Colorado has made powerful progress in protecting LGBTQ+ rights—but many of those protections still rely on administrative rules. Without action, that progress can be undone with the stroke of a pen. This bill locks in those protections and makes it possible to fight intentional discriminatory practices. Everyone deserves access to live and learn and use the name and pronouns they choose, without shame, stigma, or fear. No one should have their rights taken away because of who they are. No one should have their child taken away because of excellent and supportive parenting that is supported by every major medical association for gender dysphoria.

	I urge you to vote YES on HB25-1312. This bill is about protecting children and families as they navigate a gender-affirming journey. It's about stability, safety, and making sure Colorado continues to lead with dignity and fairness for all communities. Thank you for your time, service, and commitment to the people of Colorado. Sincerely, Scott Fassett he/him 80023 Parent of a trans child
Taurin Carreras Against themselves	I am witting to oppose HB25-1312. This bill violates the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children and make decisions about their care, education, and well being without government interference. This bill redefines "coercive control" to include "misgendering" or "deadnaming" our own children which is an outrage also knowing from study and common science that there are only two genders period. Male and Female. This is a complete violation of our rights to make it that when you "misgender" someone for it to be considered criminal. I, Taurin Carreras strongly oppose the passing of bill HB25-1312.
Carolyn Stepanian Against themselves	HB25-1312 blatantly ignores the religious liberty of all parents and individuals who believe in a biblical view of male and female. It is truly a threat to all Colorado parents and Christians. I oppose this bill and ask you to please vote against HB25-1312. Thank you.
Carly Crotzer Against themselves	I strongly oppose this bill which is an infringement on the rights of parents in this state to practice their faith, speak their minds, and parent their own children the way that they want. This bill also undermines parents' rights to have their children educated in an atmosphere that is aligned with their faith convictions, and forces even Christian schools to allow the insanity of gender ideology into their schools. This bill will be used to rip children away from loving parents, and places power in the hands of those who would exploit confused children rather than protect them. It is also against President Trump's Executive Order to End Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling. This will ultimately be proven to be illegal and will be shot down by the supreme court, but at a high cost to children and families who are hurt before that happens, and at the cost of taxpayers who must bear the financial burden to pay for the legal battle. This bill is an absolute disgrace.

Kelsi Sturdefant Against themselves	I think it is very easy to know that this bill is a huge mistake and totally ideologically driven. It is essentially saying there is one way to be a good parent or educator and to handle all children the same. Most young people are adopting what is basically a nickname and will at some point go back to using his/her real name, and you're proposing to make using a young person's real name a legal offense? We have freedom of speech in this country and you're bill claims one thing is coercive language while trying to coerce people's language. It doesn't even make sense. Do not pass this bill. You'd be fools and morons if you did so.
Carmelita DeMaria Against themselves	Dear Senators of the Judiciary Committee, I am writing today as one of many Coloradoan constituents who are strongly opposed to HB 25-1312. This legislation undermines the rights of parents to raise their children according to the values and beliefs of their family. The family is a core foundational unit of our society. Strong families build strong communities who will provide a better future for all people of this great state and our beautiful country. HB 25-1312 presumes the state is better suited than families to make personal decisions, which sets an outrageous precedent. When the government overrides parents, it weakens the family unit which in turn creates havoc and chaos in the lives of children. More and more it seems that children are not allowed to be kids. Children should be allowed to ask questions and seek answers without being placed in a box. Putting parents at odds with their kids, gender confused or not, does not bode well for our society or our state. Furthermore, this bill is potentially dangerous for the health of our children. As a pharmacist for 35 years, I have served thousands of people of all ages in many aspects of healthcare. I can tell you unequivocally that the combination of medications currently being used to promulgate the beginning of a sex change on a child is harmful. Halting the natural progression of hormones also has huge negative implications on the overall development and well being of a child or a teenager. Ultimately it is up to all of us to keep our communities healthy, intact and functioning. Sincerely, Carmelita DeMaria RPh
Sean Mandez Against	Dear Honorary Senate Committee Members,

themselves	I cannot believe I have to do this, but I'm writing to you in advance of HB25-1312. I cannot recall in my 50+ years as a Colorado resident a piece of legislation so incredibly egregious, so heinous, that it becomes a threat to the U.S. Constitutional rights of an individual or protected class of individuals . 'Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals'. Is an obvious overreach of the Colorado legislative body, the fact that this bill passed the House with little to no input on the constituency most affected by its potential passing is alarming. Let me preface the following by boldly claiming this; I am a person of faith. From my in depth understanding, his bill would seek to criminalize parents (of faith or otherwise) for calling their child by their birth name if their child wishes to be called by a different name because they are confused about or are rejecting their God-given sex. Take "God" out of the equation, and even science has long ago decided this matter when cracking the human genome. The bill expands the definition of "coercive control" to include "deadnaming" or "misgendering" and calls these practices abusive, while requiring courts to use this information in investigations and to determine the allocation of parental responsibilities in custody disputes. These definitions are also added by the bill to the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act to be used against businesses and people in places of public accommodation. Il'm not alone. If this bill were to be introduced to Colorado voters, I'm confident that it would be soundly defeated! Sean C Mandez
Carla Switzer Against themselves	I hereby testify under penalty of perjury that I, Carla Switzer vote against taking parental control away when it pertains to making any health relation decisions on our children. Primary since the bill expresses is for child safety, I consider that allowing a Court to take Parental rights on such decisions like undergoing surgery for removal of vital organs just to "fit" into a diferentes gender are ABSOLUTELY child abuse and it should be stopped. Children cannot vote, drive, drink or make any other important decision up until they are of age and in the same fashion I believe that allowing children to undergo any hormonal treatment pertaining to transgenderism would be harmful.
Jamie Schultz Against themselves	Penalties, fines and removing children from home is not a sound decision when it comes to transition, names and labeling. I am a woman, however based on my name (Jamie) and how I dress I am at times called a man, even called James, I do not take offense, I don't want someone fined, I move forward.

	People need to handle their personal emotions not have someone be fined, penalized. Schools do not have the staff or time to handle this, this can become divisive in a court battle for custody. Someone can use this against someone else in retaliation out of vengeance not truth. This bill needs to be reworked.
Matthew Storer Against themselves	This bill does not represent the will of the people of Colorado, namely any person who is a parent or plans to be a parent. This bill restricts and removes the role and responsibility of a parent to raise their child according to their family's beliefs and education. In fact, this bill move replaces family as the primary one to raise children with the State of CO being the parent. Said more clearly, this bill violates my right and rights of others to train up our children according to the freedom we have to do so. My question to you the senate is this: Why does the state limit ability of a child to purchase cigarettes? Why to you hold parents responsible for actions of children under the age of 18? It is obvious. The child is a child and has not developed ability to make good choices. Science show that brain develops until about the age of 22 or so. Yet this bill clearly is allowing a child to make choices that are more serious and will break family ties, affect emotional stability, and possibly lead to irreversible physical changes. I raised four children. You and I both know that they goes through stages of wanting to be something, or do something harmful. And we as parents help guide them through to reality. Three of my kids are girls. They all went through a phase where they were uncomfortable with themselves sexually. Today, they are amazing women, married to men and mothers to their children. My counsel was for them to work through their issues until they make it through puberty and the peer pressure of crazy in high school. I see this as health for my family and I can see that my children and now grown healthy men and women. WHY would the state of CO think that the government has the right to remove my children from me when a child complains that "mom and dad" won't let me play this or that, or smoke, or look at pornography, or change sex. I ask your do nor pass this bill or any bill like it. Vote no on HB25-1312. Thank you.
Elizabeth Duncan Against themselves	I oppose Bill HB25-1312. I am your constituent and a mom of 2 young kids. I am horrified that this bill is before you. It is unconscionable that such an egregious attack on parental rights is before you. This bill opens the door for the state government to walk in my front door and tell me how to parent my family. That is unacceptable and unconstitutional. I implore you to listen to your constituents and vote no on Bill HB25-1312. Thank you, Elizabeth Duncan
Michelle Petersen For	I am a Licensed Professional Counselor Candidate in the state of Colorado. As a mental health professional with specialized education in childhood development, I urge the Colorado Senate to pass HB25-1312. Deadnaming, misgendering, and forced dress in conflict with a child's gender identity are traumatic and deeply painful

themselves	experiences that negatively affect a child's development and create life-long emotional wounds. It is also critical that a guardian's support or not of a child's gender identity is considered in custody decisions, because denying a child's gender identity can mirror harm from emotional and verbal abuse. Just as emotional or verbal abuse would be considered when determining a child's safety during custody decisions, these factors should be equally considered. Colorado has the opportunity to protect youth from these harmful developmental experiences by passing HB25-1312. For these reasons, I urge you to support the bill.
Perseus Linn For themselves	.
Kameron Bain Against themselves	Honorable Legislators, I submit this testimony in opposition to HB25-1312, the "Kelly Loving Act," on the firm foundation of divine revelation: that God is truth, His Word is truth (John 17:17), and all men everywhere are accountable to Him. No legislation, no social convention, and no personal identity can escape the reality that "the Lord is God; there is no other besides Him" (Deuteronomy 4:35). The issue before you is not merely political or personal—it is theological. Every law reflects a worldview, and HB25-1312 attempts to legislate falsehood by protecting and enforcing a denial of God's created reality. According to Romans 1:18-25, to suppress the truth about God's design is to invite judgment, for "claiming to be wise, they became fools." It is the duty of all people, especially those who govern, to live in light of the truth that God has revealed. 1. God's Truth Is Universal and Inescapable God created humanity male and female (Genesis 1:27), and this binary is not negotiable. It is woven into the fabric of creation itself. No human being has the authority to redefine what God has established, and no government has the right to compel its citizens to affirm what is contrary to reality. "Deadnaming" and "misgendering" are framed in this bill as acts of harm, but in fact, speaking the truth about God's created order is a moral duty. To require the people of Colorado to affirm lies under threat of penalty is to institutionalize rebellion against God. 2. All Authority Is Derived and Accountable to God

	Romans 13 teaches that all governing authorities are “ministers of God” who are tasked with rewarding good and punishing evil—not redefining them. Authority is not autonomous; it is derivative. Legislators are not supreme; God is. As Psalm 2 commands, kings and rulers must “serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling” (Psalm 2:11), lest they perish in their rebellion. By proposing to criminalize biblical speech and parental protection of their children, HB25-1312 stands in direct defiance of the very God who gives government its legitimacy. 3. Parental Rights Are a Sacred Trust from God Scripture commands parents—not the state—to raise their children “in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). HB25-1312 threatens this mandate by categorizing truth-telling and parental guidance as coercive control if it contradicts a child’s declared identity. This is not protection. It is usurpation of parental authority given by God, and it invites devastating consequences not only for individual families but for the moral fabric of the society you are entrusted to govern. 4. The State Must Submit to the Standard of God’s Word Every law is either obedience or rebellion to God. There is no neutrality. Legislators cannot create a just society by divorcing law from the Lawgiver. As Proverbs 8:15 says, “By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just.” Laws must conform to God’s standards of justice, not man’s fallen imaginations. By enforcing compelled speech, punishing faithful parenting, and mandating the affirmation of falsehood, this bill does not uphold justice—it institutionalizes injustice and invites the wrath of God upon this state. 5. A Warning: This Bill Violates the U.S. Constitution and Federal Law Even if you disregard the sovereign commands of God—which would heap judgment upon yourselves—you are also bound by the U.S. Constitution. HB25-1312 would violate the First Amendment by compelling speech: it would punish individuals and parents for expressing dissent from gender ideology, forcing them to use language they do not agree with under threat of discrimination claims and court intervention.

	The First Amendment guarantees the freedom of speech, including the right not to speak or affirm ideological positions contrary to one's beliefs. Compelled speech is just as unconstitutional as restricted speech. The Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld that the government cannot force citizens to say or endorse things they do not believe (see <i>West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette</i> and <i>Janus v. AFSCME</i>). Thus, HB25-1312 not only violates divine law but also violates the supreme law of this nation. It sets the state of Colorado at odds both with the God who reigns over all and with the Constitution to which you swore allegiance. 6. A Call to Repentance and Righteous Rule God's Word issues a sober warning to all rulers: "Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth" (Psalm 2:10). Submit to the Son, lest He be angry and you perish in your rebellion. HB25-1312 demands submission to a lie; I urge you instead to submit to the truth, the living God who alone gives life, meaning, and true liberty. Therefore, in the name of Jesus Christ, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, I call on you to reject HB25-1312. Uphold the truth. Protect parental rights. Defend the Constitution you are sworn to uphold. Govern justly in accordance with the unchanging standard of God's Word. Respectfully submitted under the authority of Christ the King, Kameron Bain 7244 Cracker Jack Hts, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80922 bain.kameron@gmail.com
Andrew Zoll Against himself	Chairman and Members of the Committee, I submit this testimony in strong opposition to HB25-1312. This bill is an egregious violation of parental rights, natural law, and the higher moral law of God Himself. Civil magistrates are not autonomous rulers; they are "ministers of God" (Romans 13:4), commanded to reward good and punish evil according to His standards, not their own. When legislators attempt to sever their authority from the moral law of God, they do not abolish law; they enthrone wickedness.

	HB25-1312 arrogantly undermines the God-given authority of parents to raise their children in accordance with truth. It proposes to enshrine gender ideology—a destructive, false, and fundamentally religious belief system—into civil law, trampling the conscience rights of parents and inviting irreversible harm upon vulnerable children. Make no mistake: “gender-affirming care” is not care. It is a systematic campaign of mutilation and confusion. It destroys healthy bodies, fractures young minds, and leaves permanent scars, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. It is an abomination that grieves the heart of God. The plain truth, which every conscience in this chamber already knows, is that men are men, and women are women. No surgery, drug, or legislation can alter that reality. Attempts to do so are acts of rebellion against the Creator, who made us “male and female” (Genesis 1:27). To encourage children in delusions of “transition” is not love; it is cruelty. It is a betrayal of our duty to protect the innocent. HB25-1312 will not go unnoticed before the eyes of God, which search to and fro across the earth looking for one who will serve Him. Every vote in favor of this bill is a witness against its supporters. Every child harmed by its effects will cry out for justice—and justice will come. Today, you have a choice. You can either honor the God who established your authority, protecting the rights of parents and the lives of children... Or you can side with evil, codifying lies, harm, and tyranny into law. You cannot plead ignorance. You know the truth. I urge you to repent of this wickedness. Uphold the sacred duties entrusted to you. Defend the family. Protect the innocent. Vote NO on HB25-1312.
Abby Bleistein For themselves	Chairpersons, Members of the Committee, I am writing in support of the Kelly Loving Act, an essential and timely piece of legislation that affirms the dignity, safety, and well-being of transgender and gender-diverse youth in our state. As a practicing pediatrician with over 24 years of experience caring for children and adolescents across Colorado, I offer this testimony grounded in both medical science and lived clinical experience.

	Section 2 of this bill addresses an issue that pediatricians see far too often in family law settings: coercive control used to undermine a child's identity and autonomy. The inclusion of deadnaming, misgendering, and threats to disclose gender-affirming care as recognized forms of coercive control is both clinically sound and deeply protective of the mental health of children. Research consistently shows that affirmation of a child's gender identity by their caregivers is one of the strongest protective factors against depression, anxiety, and suicide. When courts are empowered to consider coercive actions that delegitimize a child's identity, they are better positioned to uphold the child's best interests. Sections 3 through 9 further extend critical protections by shielding Colorado families from out-of-state efforts to criminalize or penalize gender-affirming health care, ensuring inclusivity and respect in schools, and codifying chosen names and gender expression in public forms and dress codes. These changes are not symbolic—they are life-saving. In my practice, I have seen the devastating mental health impacts on children who are forcibly outed, denied the use of their chosen name, or subjected to gendered school policies that make them feel unsafe or invalidated. These experiences contribute to higher rates of self-harm, school avoidance, and psychiatric hospitalization. Conversely, when children are allowed to express their identity and are respected in their homes, schools, and communities, they thrive. This is not a theoretical issue—it is a public health one. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the American Psychological Association all support gender-affirming care and policies that protect trans and gender-diverse youth. The Kelly Loving Act is in alignment with best clinical practices and will make a measurable difference in the lives of countless young people across Colorado. Let us be clear: gender diversity is not a threat to children; discrimination is. This bill gives our courts, schools, and public agencies the tools to ensure that all children—regardless of gender identity—are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. I strongly urge you to pass the Kelly Loving Act without delay. Thank you for your time and commitment to Colorado's children.
Jacob Martin Against himself	Hello, my name is Jacob Martin, and I am a Colorado resident and a follower of Jesus Christ. I'm respectfully urging you all to vote NO on HB 1312. As a Christian, I believe that God created each of us with purpose and intention, and that parents have a God-given responsibility to lovingly guide and care for their children. This bill threatens parental rights, free speech, and religious liberty-values that are deeply important to my faith and to many families in Colorado. I ask you to please protect these fundamental freedoms and vote NO on HB 1312. Thank you, and God bless you as you serve our state.
Perseus Linn For	Hello Senators, I am sorry I won't be able to join in person as I am working. I say this because I would like to be there in person to tell you how much this Act matters to me. I am a transgender man who has been living in Denver for the past nine years. I

themselves	moved here because I knew it was a safer place to live than Oklahoma where I grew up. At this point in time I feel it is one of a very few places that is safe to live on this planet. When people see me they tend to assume I am cisgender man, but I know that would change if I lived elsewhere. Here it is safe and easy for me to access medical care that has saved my life, and without that ongoing it would change. I have had to sacrifice many relationships to become a version of myself I could tolerate being, including with my parents. Here, in this city, I have been able to form new relationships that have finally taught me what it feels like to be loved with sincerity. By people who can understand what it has been like, even though their stories are different. I have built family and community here, and I know how much of a difference this Act would have made early on in my transition, and I know people who need it now. One of the things this Act would do is ensure it is possible for kids to change their name in school. I mentor a trans teenager who has struggled horribly with school systems to have his chosen name acknowledged. He passes as male, and the frustration and humiliation he has had to endure from students and teachers at being deadnamed during rolecall is archaic. I've been through that struggle myself. The best way to prevent the transphobia that results from this is just to accept chosen names on a clerical level and prevent instructors from ever receiving the deadname in the first place. Schools regularly will use the excuse that it does not work on a government level for them to do that. This Act would do so much more for trans people, but it would specifically help to solve this problem. It could help to prevent the heartbreak and anger that results from the world deciding that your birth should define your life more than how you are living it. Believe us when we tell you who we are. Help us live honestly. Keep us safe from the monster lurking over the nation. Please.
Maija Noyd For themselves	Trans youth deserve to grow up surrounded by care and love!! It's been shown that gender affirming care is life saving and lowers suicidal ideation. Trans youth have higher rates of suicide than their peers, allowing them to stay with supportive family members and keep them in community with those who love them is literally life saving. Access to gender affirming care is life saving care. Allowing youth to be who they are and surrounded by others will keep them alive and allow them to grow up and be who they're meant to be. Trans people and trans youth deserve to grow up, they deserve love and care just as any other kid.
Autumn-Rose Titone Against themselves	This egregious bill goes against my first amendment rights as a citizen of the greatest nation in the world, the United States of America.
Anne Cardea For themselves	I write in support of the Kelly Loving Act. I write to request that you vote yes on this bill. Arguments against it are based only in hatred, ignorance, hypocrisy, and outright absurdity and lies, all of which create a slippery slope and are weapons of oppression and manufactured division. Thank you.

Misayo Welke For themselves	I am a Licensed Professional Counselor Candidate (LPCC) in the state of Colorado. I write to express my strong support for HB25-1312, the Kelly Loving Act. Through my specialized training in childhood development and trauma, I have seen how critical it is for children and adolescents to have their identities affirmed and respected. Research consistently shows that affirming a young person's sense of self — including their gender identity — is vital to healthy emotional and psychological development. Deadnaming, misgendering, and the enforcement of rigid, gendered dress codes are not benign acts; they are forms of emotional harm that can seriously undermine a child's sense of safety, self-worth, and belonging. They can lead to persistent shame, confusion about identity, emotional dysregulation, and long-term mental health challenges. My own research into gender identity, emotional granularity, and shame highlights the profound impact that invalidating experiences have on a child's ability to understand, express, and manage their emotions. Shame in particular — often triggered by repeated invalidation of one's identity — is strongly correlated with anxiety, depression, self-harm, and suicidal ideation. Children who are affirmed in their identities, however, develop greater emotional resilience, healthier coping mechanisms, and stronger self-esteem. HB25-1312 thoughtfully addresses these harms by ensuring that children are protected from discriminatory practices like intentional misgendering and deadnaming in public spaces, and by affirming the rights of supportive guardians. Importantly, it recognizes that a guardian's support of a child's gender identity is not simply a personal belief but a critical factor in safeguarding a child's emotional and psychological health. Colorado has the opportunity to be a leader in protecting some of our most vulnerable youth from emotional trauma and systemic discrimination. For the sake of our children's futures, their safety, and their right to dignity, I respectfully urge you to support HB25-1312. Thank you for your time and commitment to the youth and families of Colorado.
Jonelle Mireles Against themselves	I believe this bill directly goes against my First Amendment rights by incriminating me and other Christians for holding to the Bible's teachings that God created male and female (Genesis 1:27). If this bill passes, many Christians will be forced to deny their faith or risk losing their children. This bill blatantly ignores the religious liberty of all parents and individuals who believe in a biblical view of male and female. It is truly a threat to all Colorado parents and Christians.
Emily Ball Against	I am writing out of deep concern for the issues that this bill proposes. While I understand wanting to protect children, this goes way too far, and ends up stripping rights away from parents. There is no scenario where allocating the correct

themselves	BIOLOGICAL gender to your child should be able to be used against a parent in court. Once again, the Colorado government is overstepping its boundaries to placate a small group that is only growing because it's trendy, and not because there is a sudden onset of trans individuals that never before existed at this rate in human history. All it takes is one vindictive parent to convince their kid they are "trans" and another parent to say no, and suddenly one of them loses rights. That's so easy to manipulate in a divorce or custody situation. I have friends that this would absolutely play out this way, and that would, under this bill, potentially lose the rights to their kids -- and they are great people and great parents. Stop this madness.
Kelsey Gossett Against themselves	I want to take a moment to speak out in strong opposition against bill HB25-1312. As a parent and educator, this bill violates my personal rights of free speech and expression of religion on my levels. Not only does it violate my right as the protective authority over my household, but also my right, as an individual, to select PRIVATE institutions (namely, a school) based on how they will influence, inform and educate my children. By removing my right to choose an institution based on my personal, religious beliefs, this bill elevates the government's position on my child's gender and identity, and the INFLUENTIAL education they receive at FORMATIVE ages in their lives, over my own as the parent RESPONSIBLE for my children and their development. The government is not responsible for my children. I am. And as the just responsible party I reserve and deserve the unalienable right to ensure my child receives an education that is consistent with my religious and physiological view of the world. Not only do I believe this bill threatens my personal freedom, but also the freedom of ALL families to remain the MAIN sources of influence over their children. As parents, we have the right to ensure our children are PROTECTED and educated in a way that does not pose RISKS to their mental, physical and emotional health. By enforcing the rhetoric in this bill, educational institutions, even by the power of suggestion and insinuation, place our youth at higher rates of depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation and attempts. The rhetoric around "misgendering" as abuse is dangerous and insidious. Please, on behalf of the lives of our children and the health of our families, do not pass this bill.
Ernie Mink Against themselves	I will make this simple. I have lived in Colorado my entire life. And in that time I have seen the political landscape worsen with the democrat party in this state. Time and time again, they defy all logic and common sense, pushing horrible bills that a majority oppose, and never voted on. This is yet another of those immoral, illogical, unethical and unconstitutional bills, HB25-1312. I call it the hyper rights for an agenda born out of a marxist, anti-American, anti-conservative, and anti-reality ideology, which has no place anywhere in our society. Our founders of America would have definitely never allowed any of this nonsense to be going on. I have

	family who have children. They express my concern, as I do, for bills that push these ideologies which undermine their legal rights to full parenting without outside interference and wrongful indoctrination from these far left oppressive and aggressive marxist immoral bills. There are, and has only ever been two genders, male and female, and parents give appropriate names to their children. This is a fact which will never change. This bill wants to take natural rights away from the parents and incorrectly criminalize them for doing nothing wrong. This would push more woke "pronoun political correctness" into our culture, which the majority never wanted, knew it was nonsense, and never want it now, and in the future. HB25-1312 is extremely abusive and out of touch with the majority and normal reality. This bill must not pass. The evidence is overwhelming to prove why it should not pass. Thank you for your time.
Olivia Russell Against themselves	Taking a child away from loving parents because they do not affirm a child's beliefs is insane. First off, whether or not you agree with the prior statement, having this pass is just opening Pandora's box. Parents do not believe 100% of the same things as children, and if they did that means they are children themselves, so what is the limit of differing beliefs that mean a parent can still be over their child. We have drawn lines where we do take children away from abusive households and we do not take children from households that behave constitutionally, but passing this bill will create a new precedent. Do we take away parents who do not affirm a child's religious beliefs, political beliefs, ending-of-the-movie-Inception beliefs, economic beliefs, career beliefs, etc.? It gets real tricky real quickly. One part of the bill is jailing parents for deadnaming their kid, which should not be passed. When parents named their children, most of the time, there is intention behind the name, whether it is a family member, close friend, or idea they like. My grandfather still refers to my 25 year old brother as "Jakey", even though no one else calls him that and has not for 24 years, but my brother would have never said growing up that my grandfather should be JAILED for that. My sister has the same name as my great-grandmother who died, but she does not think of her name and associate with death and how she was before someone passed, but she reflects on who she is now and that personal identities can be based from names, but that calling someone the wrong name should not constitute being in jail. Calling someone by a name they do not identify with, although should be avoided to show respect, should not constitute jail time especially when actual crimes and felonies can result in no jail time. We also have issues in the American foster care system regarding funding and adoption hurdles, so why would we add a child to it because their parent accidentally said the name they have associated with the child since before the child was born?!? Also, saying a child does not believe they are the sex they were assigned at birth means they have gender dysphoria, which is a mental condition. How would putting a child with a mental condition in the foster system help them? Would we be wanting to put an anxious child or a schizophrenic child in the foster system when they have loving parents that do not 100% agree with them or think there are less regrettable methods of actions to help?

Richelle Schwarz For themselves	I believe in the rights of individuals, of parents, and families. I do not believe that the government should be allowed to dictate what one may wear, be called, or identify as. One does not question whether a girl decides to wear a dress one day or pants another, and so the same should be for any individual. One does not question when a Johnathon goes by John, if a Gregory chooses to go by a middle name such as Evan, or if a Samantha chooses to go by the neutral Sam, or if a Melody goes by a childhood nickname such as Bee, so the same should be for any individual. I believe it is inappropriate to police an individual based on what a perceived notion of their identity ought to be by an individual outside of the family. I believe arbitrary rules are the antithesis of freedom. I believe students have a right to expression. I believe families have a right to support their children. I believe each state has the right to enforce their laws, but only in its respective jurisdiction. I believe Colorado is a state of progress, of science, of kindness. I believe referring to an individual by the name they introduce themselves is common decency. I believe referring to an individual by the pronouns they prefer is no more an ask than referring to someone as Mister or Miss or Missus. I would like to speak about my best friend since the seventh grade. We met in Spanish class. For sake of privacy, I will refer to them as Elizabeth, and at the time they preferred the name Liz. We immediately became best friends, and still are to this day. Liz had always been a bit unconventional, and that is why we got on so well. Liz faced bullying at school because they had a difficult time conforming to how others thought they should act. In 8th grade, Liz cut their long hair short. In 9th grade, Liz asked us to refer to them as Max. No one in our friend group questioned it, we understood and carried on like any other day. Their Catholic mother supported them and still does to this day. The broader school body however, did not react kindly. We lived in rural Missouri, and a lot of the school had a difficult time understanding that some students were in same sex relationships, let alone identified as trans. Throughout high school, Max faced bullying, prejudice, deadnaming, and misgendering. This took a toll on their mental health, but luckily our friend group and their mother were their biggest supporters. Two instances in high school stand out to me particularly, and still make me angry to this day. In senior year, Max had been out for nearly 4 years. For our senior prom, the school took pictures of both the guys and the girls. A few of the guys, not many, but a few of them, tried to argue against Max taking the photo with them despite wearing a suit and to any outside perspective, appearing as one of the guys. Ultimately, Max was able to take a photo beside their friends, and appear in the guys' photo. Afterwards, Max was upset and confided that story to me, after I was done taking a photo with the girls. I remembered being so angry for him, considering at this point these people had known him for 7 years now.

	My second anecdote also took place in senior year. I was the editor of the yearbook, so it was my responsibility to make sure everything was done correctly and respectfully for each student. We had a small school, so we had a small yearbook class. In this particular instance, we were considering the yearbook superlatives. The theme was super heroes, and one of the ideas we came up with was "Most Likely to Wear a Disguise." It was silly, we had a few others like "Most Likely to have Cameo in Superhero Movie" and "Most Likely to be a Secret Agent." I was actually so unbelievably appalled when some of the girls in the class made a joke about Max having a "disguise" because they identified as a trans man, specifically because the joke wasn't in good humor, but rather posed as a dig. Neither Max nor I are unable to take a joke when it is meant as friendly, we've said things to each other that were much much worse, but the delivery and the tone of the comment made it clear they were making fun of them. I shot that suggestion down immediately, because I wasn't going to allow my best friend to be the punchline of a trashy joke in a silly yearbook for the rest of their life. Instead, one of the other guys in the journalism class and myself volunteered for the superlative instead, and our picture is in that yearbook today. Max received whatever our equivalent of "best artist" was (I cannot recall the super hero pun we made for it). I only told Max about this instant after we finalized the yearbook, because I felt awful that our classmates were still so quick to make fun of them. Max started mental health therapy and hormone therapy in middle school. They had to attend therapy for a long time before they allowed Max to start taking testosterone. It isn't an instantaneous, easy process. Max continues these today. Even if Max didn't have access to these resources in high school, I know for a fact they still would have asked us to refer to them as Max and to use he/him pronouns. It's who they are, and who they have always been. Because Max did have these resources, they are able to live their life in the way they deem best. I don't think it is anyone's place, let alone the government's, to take that opportunity away. Imagine the government overextending and telling you how to raise your child, or how to live your life. I doubt that sounds like a pleasant experience. My ask is to support this bill. Trans people are not boogeymen. They aren't frightening. They aren't secretly poisoning the youth. They aren't inherently sexual, no more than you or I. I beg you to meet and get to know a trans individual in your city, to understand that there is no threat to you or your family. They are ordinary people who want to feel comfortable and safe in their bodies, their communities, their countries. It's up to us to help them.
William Reynolds Against himself	I'm a Colorado native and have been a full-time resident of our once proud, honorable, sensible and glorious state for more than 70 years. As an avid student of Colorado history and with an actual family legacy in the state from the time of the first goldrush in the mid 1800s, I would confidently submit that not that many years ago, that the mere thought that any member of our state's legislature could even consider sponsoring or supporting such an egregiously irresponsible, harmful and dangerous piece of legislation such as HB25-1312 would have rightfully been considered as unthinkable, unimaginable and unconscionable in nature, scope and dimension.

	Since it appears that so many members of our legislature have now either lost, or more hopefully have just temporarily misplaced their moral, ethical and spiritual compasses, we have now reached that momentous period in time where these representatives have essentially declared war on the sanctity of our state's nuclear families and the universally accepted parental rights to make virtuous, righteous and healthy decisions regarding their own children's health and well-being. I truly believe that these actions are wholly incompatible and irreconcilable with their sacred duties to support and protect our families and their children. Consequently, by ignoring truth, reality and applicable/topical scientific facts and attacking the free speech and religious liberty rights granted to all of our nation's citizens under the U.S. Constitution, those legislators who continue to support this legislation will have definitively violated their oaths of office. I can only hope and pray that all of those aforementioned legislators will quickly be able to restore their compromised virtues of faith, humanity, courage, conscience and compassion and completely reject this amoral piece of legislation.
Diana Gomez Against themselves	This bill will hurt the children in our state more than help them. Parents know best and it is their right to guide and protect their children until they are mature and developed (even the thinking and reasoning part of the brain is not fully developed until our twenties)! How many bad or not fully thought out things did we do as children, tweens, and teens that we wish we could go back and change! Please, we need to vote no; putting aside our biases or where we stand politically or religiously, it is about common sense. Would we allow a child to drive, go to college, be a plumber before they are ready to just because they think they are, no! Of course not! Please please please...lets vote no.....
Shannon Sauro Against themselves	I oppose HB 25 1312 oppose Because it undermines parental rights: classifies "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as "Coercive control" in custody cases, risking parental custody for not affirming

	gender identity. Studies show that removing parents from their children's lives results in higher rates of suicide, drug use, and homelessness. HB 251312 Circumvents child protection laws: bars recognition of out-of-state laws protecting minors from irreversible gender transitions, making Colorado a "sanctuary state" for such procedures. - I do not support imposing gender ideology in schools: mandates gender-neutral dress codes and forces schools to affirm gender identity changes without parental consent. - This bill is an attack on free speech & religious liberty: criminalizes "deadnaming" and "misgendering" under the Colorado Anti-discrimination act, forcing compelled speech and penalizing dissent. Please vote no on this unconstitutional bill. Thank you, Shannon Sauro
Martha Johnson Against themselves	I am testifying as a parent, grandparent and medical professional in pediatric nursing care. HB 25-1312 is shocking to me in the radical nature. This bill threatens to strip custody from loving parents, criminalizes calling your child by their birth names, and leaving kids defenseless against a lifetime of medical harm. It is legislating that the courts will be deciding against parents for their child's care. This legislative action over steps the basic issue which is Transgender Youth Medicalization. As evidence is accumulating in Sweden, the UK and here in the USA, that these youths are harmed and not helped by medical and surgical treatments which permanently alter their bodies. This bill 1. Denies Parental Rights, 2. It violates Free Speech, 3. Harms Vulnerable Children, and 4. Mandates the Schools Prioritize Indoctrination over Education. Here is how this bill enables these violations. Deny Parental Rights.- This bill undermines parental authority by threatening to revoke the custody of parents who call a child by their birth name and pronoun that match their sex. It also prohibits Colorado courts from enforcing laws that other states might use to protect children from harmful "gender transitions." This provision disregards the rights of parents to make medical decisions based on their child's best interests and the sovereignty of other states. Violate Free Speech.-This bill defines "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as discriminatory acts under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. This sets a dangerous precedent by criminalizing speech and forcing individuals to use language that may conflict with their beliefs. Courts have already held in several recent cases on similar policies that states cannot compel speech. Harm Vulnerable Children-. Up to 98% of children who struggle with body dysphoria grow to accept their biological sex by adulthood. So-called "gender affirming care" results in castration, sterilization and life-long sexual dysfunction. After so-called "sex reassignment surgery," boys and girls are nearly 20 times more likely to die from

	suicide than the general population. Children who “transition” socially and particularly those who begin puberty blockers usually go on to be medicalized for life. Ripping children from fit and loving families over fraudulent allegations of abuse puts them at even greater risk. Sage in Virginia was trafficked by a sexual predator when a judge wouldn't return her to her parents, because of false allegations of misgendering abuse. Yaeli in California was ripped from her loving family to be medically transitioned by the state. Away from her family, she spiraled into depression and took her own life. Mandate Schools Prioritize Indoctrination Over Education.- This bill mandates schools change their dress codes and naming policies, requiring them to be inclusive of all “chosen names” and gender expression—for any reason whatsoever. These mandates impose additional burdens on educators and administrators, asking them to focus on promoting indoctrination over education. https://youtu.be/w4w77PGKw60?si=XvgL6e9nbm7uCjcf This short video is the testimony from a Jamie Reed, a medical professional who exposes the harm and regret youths in her gender clinic experienced. HB 25-1312 removes caring parents from advocating for health care which would help and not harm their child. zes As a medical professional we keep first and foremost to First Do No Harm. There is accumulating evidence that Gender Affirming Care which prioritizes medical and surgical care over comprehensive assessment of social, emotional and mental health and treatment is harming our vulnerable youth. Please do not refer this bill for passage.
Kelly Guest For themselves	Dear Honorable Members, I am a proud Coloradan. I am a recent widow, who with my husband raised a family here in the Denver area near the Capitol. I was born and raised in Denver. I went to elementary, middle, high school, and earned a BA in our fine state. I was fortunate to be able to earn a Master’s degree in 2023. Prior to their own college adventures, my children attended all the same public schools. When one of our daughters reached middle school she was able to express to us that she was ready to make some changes with how people perceived her gender and her name. We were lucky to have lots of mental health support in addition to community and family support. On Wednesday 4/1/24 at the House Judiciary Committee proceedings for HB 26-1312 (The Kelly Loving Act), I heard many sad stories of children who were rejected by their families, schools, and communities for being gender non conforming and how that created suicidal ideation in many of them. It also led to many of them leaving their family of origin. A very profound message to the committee that evening was that transgender people do not disappear when rules or laws are unsupportive of their gender identity. They only become more scared of discrimination and violence towards them. Even though our daughter had much support at home and through her community we still went through some major challenges to get the Denver

	Public School System to honor our daughters pronouns and name change. Our daughter suffered from poor mental health and dysphoria from being deadnamed, and misgendered on school forms and by school personnel. I was told to call the district secretary to have the name and gender changed in the computer system and that secretary was not knowledgeable about the challenges that transgender and nonbinary students face and the mental health issues it causes them when they are misgendered and deadnamed. Had the Kelly Loving Act been enacted at the time I myself would not have had to spend hours of valuable and precious time (that could have been spent with my children or my disabled and terminally ill husband) educating school personnel about the importance of calling people by the names and genders that align with a person's gender identity. Our daughter's mental health took a nosedive during online school during the pandemic as many children did. Not just due to the lack of social contact but she had to daily look at a screen that deadnamed her. This was truly humiliating and brought on terrible gender dysphoria for our daughter. Our daughter showed signs of being transgender at an early age. She wanted to be called by a more feminine name when she was in elementary school. We never told our daughter what to be and when she told us who she was we believed her and sought out support for her. I was in the education field for over 25 years and can tell you that transphobia and discrimination against gender non conforming students is prevalent on a daily basis. When children are asked to line up based on their gender, where are nonbinary children supposed to go? Our society tells children they have to pick one and their actions should align with their perceived gender. This bill will make navigating education easier and safer for transgender and nonbinary children. I wish it was around when my child was attending primary, middle, and high school. This bill will help families with transgender and nonbinary children by taking the burden off of the families and students to self advocate. It makes our existing anti discrimination laws more specific and can be used as guidance. At heart this bill will give guidance locally on gender identity protections that already exist. Many years ago schools had discriminatory practices based on race and those were changed. It is now time to protect transgender and nonbinary people in the same way. Now more than ever transgender and nonbinary people need to have their rights protected in Colorado as their rights are being challenged nationally. Thank you for voting yes on H.B. 25-1312, The Kelly Loving Act.
Mabilia Rastello Against themselves	Thank you Senators for your time. My name is Mabilia Rastello and as a resident of Colorado and a mother who desires to raise my children according the values of our family I find this bill to be a threat to freedom and safety of families across Colorado and I ask you to vote against it. HB25-1312 is misnamed as Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals. When in fact many parts of the bill are more focused on removing the rights of parents and criminalizing parents who would desire to teach their children the truth. This bill would serve to undermine the authority of parents and potentially place children in a vulnerable situation by encouraging them to turn to adults who bear no legal or fiduciary responsibility for them. This bill expands the definition of "coercive control" to include "deadnaming" or "misgendering" and refers to these practices as

	a form of abuse. Calling my child or any child by their legal name, the name on their birth certificate, is not abuse. It is an upholding of reality. To risk a child being removed from a home and placed into an overburdened child welfare system is to take away resources from children who are experiencing actual physical abuse and neglect. As a Christian, my faith is clear on what science has made plain. There are two biological sexes. Biological sex is linked to gender expression. To criminalize the ability to speak this truth and raise children in accordance with it, is to violate freedom of speech and deny religious liberty. I ask again that you vote against HB25-1312. If you want to protect vulnerable children start by upholding reality. Create space for children to hear opinions and arguments with which they may disagree and encourage children to express themselves with respect and thoughtfulness. Do not be part of the further weakening of society by sending the message to children that those with whom they disagree should be silenced and punished. Let us aspire to honesty and to freedom, not tyranny. Thank you for your time.
Teresa FLOWERS Against themselves	I urge you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill silences public debate, criminalizes dissent, and forces schools, businesses, and citizens to comply with government-mandated speech. Free states do not punish people for speaking biological truth.
Ashleigh Rankin Against themselves	Dear Senators and Governor Polis, I am Writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you—do not destroy freedom in Colorado! This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday, silencing the voices of concerned Coloradans and cutting off critical debate. That alone should raise alarms about the process. Even more concerning is that this bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children. Parents—not the government—know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are best equipped to make decisions about their children’s well-being. This bill tramples constitutional rights and turns loving parents into criminals simply for protecting their children. We are not criminals. We are parents. This bill doesn’t just target parents—it threatens every Colorado school, business, and public institution by forcing them to comply with government-mandated speech and ideology. Under HB25-1312, using a child's given name or acknowledging biological sex could trigger lawsuits, loss of custody, or civil penalties.

	Schools would be forced to hide gender identity changes from parents. Businesses—including faith-based organizations—would be compelled to affirm ideas they do not believe, or face legal action. This is not protection—it is coercion. HB25-1312's vague, broad language will create fear, confusion, and the tragic destruction of families. It will chill free speech, force ideological compliance, and pit the state against its own citizens. Colorado citizens should never fear government retaliation for speaking biological truth or standing by their convictions. For the sake of our families, our schools, our businesses, and the future of Colorado, I respectfully urge you: stand for parental rights, protect freedom, and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Michele Ferrier Against themselves	I have not much to say except.... Did we think this bill through for consequences? Where are the non-compliant parents and disgruntled children going. I see overcrowding for the government systems like Child Protective Services and our already overcrowded jails. We the parents birthed these children what gives the government the right to discipline grown adults. This is NOT protecting anyone. It is interference. You birth them you have rights not the other way around.
Eileen Bausch Against themselves	I oppose HB25-1312 as it is totally unconstitutional. This bill completely undermines parental rights, by classifying "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as "Coercive control" in custody cases, risking parental custody for not affirming gender identity. This also circumvents child protection laws: bars recognition of out-of-state laws protecting minors from irreversible gender transitions, making Colorado a "sanctuary state" for such procedures. • I oppose gender ideology in schools: mandates gender-neutral dress codes and forces schools to affirm gender identity changes without parental consent. • Please stop this attack on free speech & religious liberty: it criminalizes "deadnaming" and "misgendering" under the Colorado Anti-discrimination act, forcing compelled speech and penalizing dissent. I beg you to vote no on HB25-1312. Thank you, Eileen Bausch
Daniel Pouse Against themselves	Testimony in Opposition to HB 1312 – Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals Date: 4/30/25 To: Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee Re: Written Testimony on HB 1312 – Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals

	Dear Honorable Committee Members, My name is Daniel, and I am a concerned constituent from Loveland, Colorado. I am writing to strongly urge you to vote NO on HB 1312, also known as the "Kelly Loving Act." This bill raises several issues that not only threaten personal freedoms but also jeopardize the healthy development of children, the integrity of parental rights, and the stability of our communities. While I understand and respect the desire to protect the dignity and rights of transgender individuals, I believe that the provisions of this bill, as written, would have far-reaching consequences for Colorado families and society at large. I would like to express my objections based on the following points: 1. Harmful Impact on Childhood Development It is vital to recognize that children's brains are not fully developed and cannot critically analyze complex concepts such as gender identity until they reach a certain age. Children are incredibly impressionable, and by normalizing gender dysphoria and promoting it as a viable identity path for young children, we risk causing confusion rather than fostering healthy, grounded development. Promoting such concepts without fully accounting for the cognitive and emotional maturation process can cause long-term confusion and harm to children. Furthermore, I oppose all forms of ideological programming—including gender identity, religious, or any other ideology—being pushed onto children at an age when they lack the critical thinking capacity to make such significant decisions. Indoctrination of any kind at such a vulnerable stage of development can cause lasting damage to their understanding of themselves and the world around them. Encouraging or forcing children to adopt complex and highly subjective identities before they are capable of understanding them constitutes a form of child abuse. The push to normalize gender dysphoria in children, through education or societal reinforcement, goes against the natural course of childhood development. Studies show that up to 98% of children who experience gender confusion eventually come to terms with their biological sex as they mature. Forcing children to accept gender dysphoria as a permanent identity too early can derail their healthy psychological development. Our primary responsibility is to protect children from being pushed into irreversible medical treatments or decisions before they have developed the capacity to make fully informed, autonomous choices. 2. Parental Rights Are Being Undermined

	A key issue with HB 1312 is its violation of parental rights. This bill creates a troubling scenario where parents who choose to call their child by their birth name or pronouns are labeled as “unfit” in custody disputes. No parent should fear losing custody of their child simply because they disagree with the child’s chosen identity. Parents are the primary caregivers and should have the right to make decisions for their children that align with their beliefs and values, including those relating to gender identity. By stripping away this parental autonomy, the bill undermines the fundamental rights that parents have to raise their children according to their best judgment. Additionally, this bill will bar Colorado courts from honoring other states’ laws that protect children from harmful gender transitions, further infringing on the ability of parents to make the best choices for their families. State-sanctioned institutions should not replace the family as the primary authority in a child’s life. The power to make decisions about a child’s well-being, especially when it comes to something as significant as gender identity, must remain with the parents—those who know their child best. Bypassing the family unit in favor of state intervention is a grave mistake, one that not only disregards parental rights but also disrupts the natural, supportive environment children need to thrive. 3. Free Speech and the Weaponization of Language HB 1312 dangerously expands the definition of “deadnaming” and “misgendering” to include discrimination under Colorado law. This provision effectively criminalizes free speech, forcing individuals to conform to subjective definitions of gender identity under threat of legal consequences. The government cannot—and should not—compel speech. Individuals should be allowed to express their opinions and speak in accordance with their beliefs without fear of being penalized for using terms such as a person’s birth name or pronouns that align with their biological sex. To demand conformity to someone’s subjective identity under threat of shame, punishment, or legal repercussions is a form of gaslighting. It manipulates individuals into questioning their own reality and sense of truth, which is both an emotional and psychological abuse. This crosses a critical boundary by attempting to force individuals to accept and participate in a reality that does not align with their own, under threat of severe personal and legal consequences. This bill is not only a violation of free speech but also an attempt to control and coerce individual thought and expression. We cannot allow a bill to pass that curtails one of our most fundamental freedoms: the freedom of speech. 4. The Harm of Gender Affirming Care

	The bill pushes the notion of "gender affirming care" without fully acknowledging the long-term consequences of such treatments. Up to 98% of children with gender confusion outgrow it naturally. However, by promoting gender transitions through surgeries, castration, sterilization, and the use of puberty blockers, we are potentially setting these children on a lifelong path of medical dependency. After undergoing surgery, suicide rates increase dramatically—nearly 20 times higher than the average population. By tearing children from their loving, fit families based on unsupported claims of abuse due to a child's gender identity confusion, we are only increasing their vulnerability. Pushing these children into irreversible medical procedures at such an early stage of their development is a severe breach of responsibility. 5. Weaponizing the Legal System Erodes Community Harmony HB 1312 risks eroding community relations by using the legal system to force conformity to a subjective gender identity, potentially igniting widespread outrage and dissent among the majority. Most people do not object to the decisions of adults, but they are deeply concerned about what is best for their children and the preservation of their freedoms. Laws that mandate compliance with specific ideologies do not foster unity; they fuel anger, alienation, and resentment. Forcing the majority into adopting an ideological stance they don't agree with will only create division and deepen the emotional rift in our communities. True harmony is not achieved through legal coercion or the threat of punishment—it comes from open, respectful dialogue, where people can express differing views without fear of retribution. Conclusion In closing, while I strongly believe in the importance of protecting the rights and dignity of transgender individuals, HB 1312, as it stands, fails to achieve a balance that respects the rights of all individuals involved. By disregarding parental rights, restricting free speech, and pushing for irreversible medical procedures on vulnerable children, the bill poses significant risks to personal freedoms and the healthy development of young people. For the sake of our children, families, and communities, I urge you to vote NO on HB 1312. Thank you for your time and consideration.

	Sincerely, Daniel Pouse
Suzanne Rains Against themselves	Esteemed Senators, My name is Suzanne Rains, and I am a mom of four children (ages 9-15) in Fort Collins, Colorado. We have lived in Colorado for 13 years and I've always been proud of our state. I implore you, senators of Colorado, to stop this perverse bill from passing the senate. Parenting is my greatest calling in life. I know, from raising pre-adolescents and adolescents of my own, that their cognitive functions are not fully formed until adulthood. We don't let kids vote. We don't let kids drink. We don't let kids do drugs. We don't let kids give blood. We don't let kids get tattoos. Because we are parents, and we love them, and we want them to have the best, healthiest start to adulthood. So, why on earth would Colorado pass a bill that puts authority into the hands of underdeveloped children? HB 1312 denies parental rights, violates free speech, harms vulnerable children, and mandates that schools prioritize indoctrination over education. This bill: Denies Parental Rights. This bill undermines parental authority by threatening to revoke the custody of parents who call a child by their birth name and pronoun that match their sex. It also prohibits Colorado courts from enforcing laws that other states might use to protect children from harmful "gender transitions." This provision disregards the rights of parents to make medical decisions based on their child's best interests and the sovereignty of other states. Violates Free Speech. This bill defines "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as discriminatory acts under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. This sets a dangerous precedent by criminalizing speech and forcing individuals to use language that may conflict with their beliefs. Courts have already held in several recent cases on similar policies that states cannot compel speech. Harms Vulnerable Children. Up to 98% of children who struggle with body dysphoria grow to accept their biological sex by adulthood. So-called "gender affirming care" results in castration, sterilization and life-long sexual dysfunction. After so-called "sex reassignment surgery," boys and girls are nearly 20 times more likely to die from suicide than the general population. Children who "transition" socially and particularly those who begin puberty blockers usually go on to be medicalized for life. Ripping children from fit and loving families over fraudulent allegations of abuse puts them at even greater risk. Sage in Virginia was trafficked by a sexual predator when a judge wouldn't return her to her parents, because of false allegations of misgendering abuse. Yaeli in California was ripped from her loving family to be medically transitioned by the state. Away from her family, she spiraled into depression and took her own life.

	Mandates Schools Prioritize Indoctrination Over Education. This bill mandates schools change their dress codes and naming policies, requiring them to be inclusive of all "chosen names" and gender expression—for any reason whatsoever. These mandates impose additional burdens on educators and administrators, asking them to focus on promoting indoctrination over education. Why would I encourage my daughter to pursue a teaching degree in this type of educational environment? For these reasons, I humbly ask that you vote against Bill HB 1312. Sincerely, Suzanne Rains 2619 Brownstone Ct. Fort Collins, CO 80525
D Baker Against themselves	I am a lifelong Democrat, and I oppose this bill. It is detrimental to a child to remove them from their family and will cause worse outcomes than not affirming. Kids are being pressured to do a lot of things on the internet and adolescents and teenagers are pretty notorious for going through rebellious phases not really understanding the consequences. Family counseling is a better option.
Lydia Johns Against themselves	I am vehemently against this bill. It takes away parental rights and positions vulnerable children to make permanent life decisions at a young age. Children who are "transitioned" by doctors are put on medications and go through surgeries that have permanent consequences. Children who grow up and desire to detransition or have a family are not able to undo all of these effects. Creating a state that promotes these surgeries and procedures is not in children's best interest. Punishing parents for calling their children the correct name and gender is not right. Parents are to teach their children what is true and good. Calling them their real name and gender is not mistreatment, but teaching them the truth. This bill should not pass. It is evil and malicious at the cost of children and their futures.
Adrianna Card Against themselves	Members of the Colorado Senate Committee, Thank you for allowing me to share my concerns regarding Bill 25-1312. My opposition to this legislation is rooted in my profound concern for protecting fundamental rights and freedoms, specifically parental rights, freedom of speech, and protection from compelled speech. Bill 25-1312 unnecessarily infringes upon these essential liberties by undermining parents' authority to make important decisions concerning their children's education and personal development. Just as we have protective laws to prevent children from making adult-only decisions such as drinking alcohol, getting a tattoo, driving a vehicle, or owning a gun, laws should protect children from making permanent or unnecessary changes to their social and

	physical identity before the age of 18. This includes their parents protecting, making adult-level decisions, and guiding their children until their children are of age. Additionally, this bill raises serious issues about compelled speech, forcing individuals to affirm specific ideologies that may contradict their sincerely held beliefs. This encroachment upon free expression sets a troubling precedent for all Coloradans. "Kindness" or "respect" cannot be mandated. While we all wish and desire that every person be treated with respect regardless of who they are and how they present, trying to compel and force speech will only create animosity, fear, and false "acceptance" and "deference" that have historically been shown to create more friction rather than less. Moreover, I want to emphasize clearly: all transgender individuals already possess the full spectrum of constitutional rights and protections enjoyed by every American citizen. Treating gender identity as a special category, analogous to a disability requiring additional protections, undermines true equality and individual autonomy. Finally, matters of gender identity and expression involve profound personal considerations, best suited to mature adults rather than imposed upon minors, especially without adequate parental input. I urge you to reconsider Bill 25-1312 to ensure we protect parental rights, preserve genuine freedom of expression, and maintain equality under the law. Thank you for your careful consideration.
Nathan Johns Against himself	I strongly oppose this bill. It undermines parental rights and encourages vulnerable children to make irreversible decisions at an early age. Medical transitions involving hormones and surgeries can have lasting, life-altering effects. Some individuals who later choose to detransition or hope to start families may find these changes impossible to reverse. Promoting such interventions as state policy does not serve the best interests of children. Additionally, penalizing parents for using their child's given name and biological sex is unjust. Parents have the responsibility to guide their children in truth and values. Affirming a child's biological identity should not be considered harm, but an expression of care and responsibility. This bill should be rejected—it is deeply harmful to both children and their futures.
FRITHA ROBINSON Against himself	I am a lifelong Democrat and I oppose this bill. As a counselor who is witnessing the devastating impact of gender affirming abuse, parents have every right to oppose transitioning their child. We can love a child and set boundaries and help them avoid a path that will leave them lifelong medical patients. Further, free speech is a vital cornerstone of our democracy and I worry that the Democrats have forgotten this. It is wrong when Republicans attack free speech and it is wrong when Democrats do it. And I will not stand by silently as my party goes down a totalitarian path.

Garrett Naufel Against themselves	Ladies and Gentlemen, I am writing to respectfully oppose this legislation and to ask you to do the same. As a parent and concerned citizen, I believe this bill is neither in the best interests of the individuals it hopes to protect nor the parents of those seeking to walk with their children through the extremely difficult challenges of gender dysphoria. I've witnessed firsthand the heartache of all parties involved in these very difficult situations, and I know the great complexity involved in seeking to assist and protect them. I do not believe this legislation will secure the assistance and protection intended for those struggling with gender dysphoria nor for those seeking to assist these individuals. Among the many concerns I have about HB25-1312, the following are particularly acute: -Redefines "Coercive Control": The bill expands this definition to include "misgendering" or "deadnaming" one's own child. In cases where marriages have been torn apart by this issue, the parent refusing to support their child's transition could be accused of exerting "coercive control" and potentially lose custody of the child in family court. -Broadens Anti-Discrimination Definitions: Misgendering is classified as a form of discrimination under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act in any public space (i.e., everywhere you go except your church and home). All schools and businesses are required to comply. -Challenges to Parental Rights: These measures may infringe upon parents' constitutional rights to raise their children and make decisions regarding their care and upbringing without undue government interference. -Forces all places of accommodation (including churches and private Christian schools) to lie, to reject the Word of God, Genesis 1:27-28 that He made male and female, or face consequences from the state. Though I could list many other concerns, I believe my position is clear and is rooted in reality born out by science. I strongly request that you deeply consider the ramifications of this legislation, the realities surrounding the true needs of those struggling with gender dysphoria and the complexities surrounding not only their needs but the needs of those caring for them and that you vote no on this legislation. I understand that we need solutions and protections for all parties, but I do not believe this bill accomplishes what is truly needed. As such, in humility, I ask that you join me and countless others in opposing this legislation. Thank you so much for your consideration and for your service. I pray that you are successful in serving all of the people you were elected to serve. Grace and peace to you. Sincerely, Garrett Naufel

Tinly Unruh Against themselves	To Whom It May Concern, My name is Tinly, and I submit this testimony as a citizen of Colorado and a follower of Jesus Christ, guided by the truth of Scripture. I respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 25-1312, which would expand legal protections based on gender identity, including provisions that may compel recognition of gender transitions in areas of education, healthcare, housing, and public accommodations. As a Christian, I believe every person is created by God and is therefore worthy of dignity, compassion, and respect. However, I also believe, according to Scripture, that God created humanity in His image as male and female (Genesis 1:27), and that this binary distinction is both purposeful and good. It is not within the human authority to redefine what God has clearly ordained. HB 25-1312 promotes a view of gender that is contrary to biblical teaching and undermines the created order. By embedding gender identity as a protected class, this legislation risks compelling individuals, organizations, schools, and religious institutions to affirm beliefs about gender and identity that violate their deeply held convictions. It also restricts the rights of parents to guide their children according to the truth, particularly concerning issues of identity and sexuality. While Christians are called to love all people, including those who identify as transgender, we are not called to affirm what God calls confusion or sin (Deuteronomy 22:5; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Laws should protect all citizens from violence and unjust treatment. However, HB 25-1312 goes beyond protecting individuals from harm—it seeks to enshrine into law a moral and metaphysical understanding of human identity that directly contradicts Scripture and threatens religious liberty. Romans 1 warns against exchanging the truth of God for a lie and following passions that are contrary to God's design. It says that, "those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them" (Romans 1:32, ESV). Supporting this bill places yourself and our state under the judgment of God, as the Bible is clear that those who commit sin, deserve God's judgment. Even apart from this bill, we know from Scripture that everyone is a sinner and has fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Therefore, I plead with you to first and foremost repent of your sins and place your faith Jesus - the only Son of God who came to earth as fully man and fully God to live a perfect life, die in the place of sinners, and raise again to offer salvation to all who trust in Him. Secondly, I plead with you to fulfill your God-given duty to promote justice and righteousness in our society by opposing this bill. I respectfully ask that you vote against this bill and instead pursue legislation that protects all individuals

	from unjust discrimination without compelling the acceptance of ideologies that conflict with the Truth. Sincerely, Tinly Castle Rock, Colorado
Sarah Barker Against themselves	I'm a lifelong Democrat, and I oppose this bill. Tying parental rights to compliance with an irrational, anti-reality ideology that involves known harms to children is a gross overreach. Gender ideology is not based in facts—it has no place in schools. It's absolutely essential that the press accurately report the sex of those involved in crimes. Masking it a crime to do so makes it impossible to achieve safeguarding goals
cara George Against themselves	I am in opposition to this bill! The bill undermines parental rights. It circumvents child protection laws. It imposes gender ideology in the school system. The school system should be to educate children in reading, math, science and not ideology. Furthermore, it attacks free speech and religious liberty!! This bill is unconstitutional!
Mary Camp Against themselves	Honorable Senators, this bill is very dangerous. It is attempting to codify an Ideology that has little to no research or efficacy behind transgender identification or treatment. Just the opposite is true the Cass report from Uk and additional reports are refuting many of the propositions of this ideology. One glaring study found there is no correlation with transgender dysphoria and suicide which has often been used to scare parents. Additional studies are identifying the issue of contagion in the growth of this condition. More and more medical societies are reversing their stance on treatment, this includes the danger of hormone blockers, cardiac conditions and continual medical issues, Indeed the Uk, Sweden and Finland are reversing their stance on these issues. Articles highlighting the 70-80 recanting rate should give you great pause. These issues are the ones parents have to navigate and none of those issues are settled or medically scientific. They are mainly activist opinion with little concrete evidence. To insert this Ideology into the issue of child custody is devastating for children and families. This law could lead to the banning of parental contact and even termination of parental rights. Again, studies show that as many as 70-8% of children recant. This bill will introduce trauma into the family unit with little benefit. The Children's Code Title 19, 19-2-102 of which this would ultimately become a part of states" the general assembly declares the purposes of this title are: a. to secure for each child subject to these provisions such care and guidance preferably in his own home, as will best serve his welfare and the interests of society.

	b. To preserve and strengthen family ties whenever possible, including improvement of home environment..." This law does none of those things. As an attorney in child welfare for 22 years I observed that either preventing contact with a parent or terminating parental rights leaves a hole in the heart of a child that never heals. This bill is a slippery slope to trauma for parent and child. This issue is a mental health issue for well-informed unbiased therapists to deal with. This unproven and unsettled Ideology does not warrant this intrusion into the lives of parents and children.
Jim Maguire Against himself	To the Colorado State Legislature/whom it may concern; I am writing to strongly oppose the disastrous HB25-1312 bill that has been proposed. As a resident of Firestone in Weld County and father of 2 grown children, both a male and female I can't imagine the thought of the government, or the "state" determining the upbringing and nurturing of my own children. Whether it's a government official, teacher or counselor telling me how to raise my child is shocking to say the least. In today's culture with the idea that we question biology is simply amazing. Our creator, God, Jesus Christ uniquely designed us both male and female. While we do have many young children struggling to understand their true identity, we need to compassionately remind them, whether it be the parents, teachers, counselors and any government representative that child are "fearfully and wonderfully" created male and female. Sincerely, Jim
LARA MATISEK For himself	Statement in Support of HB25-1312: Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals As a resident of Colorado Springs and a staunch advocate for civil rights and family integrity, I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill HB25-1312. This legislation is a crucial step toward ensuring that transgender individuals, particularly transgender minors, are protected from discrimination and harm in various settings, including healthcare, education, and family law. Affirming Rights and Dignity HB25-1312 recognizes the fundamental rights of transgender individuals to live authentically and without fear of discrimination. By codifying protections against discrimination based on gender identity, the bill affirms the dignity and humanity of transgender individuals, allowing them to participate fully in society without facing prejudice or exclusion. Safeguarding Minors

	For transgender minors, the bill provides essential safeguards against coercive or harmful practices that have been shown to exacerbate mental health challenges. By ensuring access to gender-affirming care and protecting against forced conversion therapies, HB25-1312 supports the well-being and development of transgender youth, allowing them to thrive in a supportive and accepting environment. Addressing Family Dynamics In the context of family law, HB25-1312 seeks to prevent the weaponization of a child's gender identity in custody disputes. It ensures that disagreements over gender identity are not used as a basis for denying custody or visitation rights, thereby promoting the best interests of the child and maintaining family stability. Promoting Equality and Justice This bill aligns with Colorado's long-standing commitment to equality and justice for all its residents. By passing HB25-1312, the state would send a clear message that discrimination has no place in our communities and that every individual deserves respect and equal treatment under the law. In conclusion, HB25-1312 is a vital piece of legislation that upholds the rights and dignity of transgender individuals, protects minors from harm, and promotes a more inclusive and just society. I urge all members of the Colorado General Assembly to support this bill and work toward its swift passage. Sincerely, Lara Matisek (206) 450-9628 cellular 12765 Pensador Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80921 El Paso County military spouse
Christopher Volesky Against themselves	As a parent and contributing member of this state I am vehemently opposed to this bill. I believe this bill to be in direct violation of constitutional rights under the first amendment, freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Additionally, there are major moral and ethical problems with this bill not to mention grossly irresponsible potential ramifications to such a proposed piece of legislation.

	Gender affirmation is nothing more than lying. It is pure dishonesty. If one of my sons told me he feels like a girl or says he identifies as a girl, it would be simply wrong. He is not a girl/woman/female. He is male and this "feeling" in his head, while it should be kindly and properly addressed, is not rooted in reality. To say that telling my child the truth is emotional or psychological abuse is completely absurd and not representative of how most of the people and parents of this state feel. I can literally spout curse words in public and that is not a problem but to tell my biological son "No son, you are not a girl, you are a boy." is somehow a problem is ludicrous. This is just axiomatic. This bill is completely wrong in this way and seeks to harm the family dynamic and cause long term psychological damage to our children. Additionally, it is well documented in developmental science that the human brain is not fully developed until the age of 25. This means that prior to this our ability to completely reason and comprehend the ramifications of our decision making is not fully developed, so it stands to reason that a child cannot fully comprehend the ramifications of telling themselves and others lies about their biological identity. This bill is a direct violation of parental rights, constitutional rights, and the rights, morals and ethics of this state. Passing it will compromise the safety of our children and of the family dynamic. Do not pass this bill. Sincerely, Christopher Volesky
Peter Whitcomb Against themselves	1. Click link 2. Select "submit written testimony" 3. Select "by committee and hearing item" 4. Committee name = senate judiciary Meeting date and time = 4/30 at 1:30pm Hearing item = hb25-1312 5. Fill out info and then copy and paste the below in the "type testimony in text box" space _____ I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more

	concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Lauren Unruh Against themselves	Dear Members of the Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to speak into the conversation surrounding House Bill 25-1312. I write today with sincere concern and in respectful opposition to this bill— not from a place of judgment, but from a place of deep care for children, families, and the sacred role of parents, as informed by my Christian faith. HB25-1312 includes provisions that promote gender identity education and access to services that may support a child's social or medical transition—often without parental involvement. As someone who believes that every person is made in the image of God, I am compelled to speak to the spiritual and developmental implications of such policy. Psalm 139:13–14 reminds us, "For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." This scripture reflects a foundational belief that each person—regardless of how they feel or identify—is purposefully created and deeply loved by God. I do not deny that some individuals experience deep distress about their gender. My heart aches with compassion for them, especially our youth, who are still forming their identity and trying to make sense of the world around them. They deserve to be treated with love, dignity, and respect. However, affirming the dignity of every person does not mean we should affirm every feeling as fixed truth—especially when those feelings may change or lead to significant medical or psychological consequences. Informed by both Scripture and emerging research, I believe we must approach gender-related concerns in youth with caution, wisdom, and with families at the center of care. To bypass or minimize parental involvement in such serious and

	sensitive matters not only contradicts Biblical responsibility but also weakens the support system a child most needs: their family. As a Christian, I believe God has designed us with intentionality. While cultural messages may tell children they must look inward to find their true identity, I believe true peace comes from knowing that their identity is already given by a loving Creator. Instead of reinforcing confusion, we should be nurturing environments that allow children to grow into their God-given selves with gentleness, time, and support. I urge you to reconsider the unintended harm this bill could cause by creating distance between children and their parents, and by affirming irreversible paths before a child is fully mature. For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. Sincerely, Lauren Unruh Denver, Colorado
Terry Fox Against himself	As a parent and contributing member of this state I am vehemently opposed to this bill. I believe this bill to be in direct violation of constitutional rights under the first amendment, freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Additionally, there are major moral and ethical problems with this bill not to mention grossly irresponsible potential ramifications to such a proposed piece of legislation. Gender affirmation is nothing more than lying. It is pure dishonesty. If one of my sons told me he feels like a girl or says he identifies as a girl, it would be simply wrong. He is not a girl/woman/female. He is male and this "feeling" in his head, while it should be kindly and properly addressed, is not rooted in reality. To say that telling my child the truth is emotional or psychological abuse is completely absurd and not representative of how most of the people and parents of this state feel. I can literally spout curse words in public and that is not a problem but to tell my biological son "No son, you are not a girl, you are a boy." is somehow a problem is ludicrous. This is just axiomatic. This bill is completely wrong in this way and seeks to harm the family dynamic and cause long term psychological damage to our children. Additionally, it is well documented in developmental science that the human brain is not fully developed until the age of 25. This means that prior to this our ability to completely reason and comprehend the ramifications of our decision making is not fully developed, so it stands to reason that a child cannot fully comprehend the ramifications of telling themselves and others lies about their biological identity. This bill is a direct violation of parental rights, constitutional rights, and the rights, morals and ethics of this state. Passing it will compromise the safety of our children and of the family dynamic. Do not pass this bill.

Tyler Ashley Against themselves	am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Andrea Volesky Against themselves	Dear Senate Judiciary, As a parent, a concerned citizen, and a contributing member of our state, I am writing to express my vehement opposition to House Bill HB 25-1312. This legislation, in my view, is deeply flawed both constitutionally and ethically, and I urge you not to pass it. We have rightly established age-based safeguards in our laws to protect our youth from life-altering decisions they are not yet mature enough to make. For instance, individuals must be 21 to legally consume alcohol, 18 to purchase tobacco products, and 21 to use recreational marijuana in Colorado. These laws are based on evidence regarding neurological development and the capacity for mature decision-making. Why, then, would we allow children—some as young as pre-teens—to make permanent decisions about their gender identity, including access to hormone therapies or surgeries, which can have irreversible consequences? Research supports these concerns. A study published in The Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy found that many young people with gender dysphoria may eventually desist

	if given time and support rather than immediate medical intervention. The Finnish and Swedish health authorities have significantly restricted hormonal treatments for minors, citing insufficient evidence on long-term benefits and risks (Cass Review Interim Report, 2022). Additionally, the American College of Pediatricians warns against early medical interventions for gender dysphoria, arguing that they may be harmful and unethical in the absence of comprehensive psychological evaluation. From a constitutional perspective, this bill infringes upon First Amendment rights, especially freedom of speech and religious expression. It risks labeling traditional beliefs about gender—many of which are deeply rooted in religious doctrine—as abusive or unacceptable. Telling my child the biological truth—“You are a boy” or “You are a girl”—should never be construed as emotional or psychological abuse. This is a core belief held by many parents and citizens across our state. Labeling truth-telling as abuse sets a dangerous precedent. If I cannot speak honestly and lovingly to my child about their biological identity without fear of state reprisal, our society has overstepped a critical boundary. Freedom of speech must include the right to express biological and moral truths, especially within one’s own home and family. Moreover, it is well-documented in developmental science that the human brain does not fully mature until around age 25. Until then, reasoning, impulse control, and long-term judgment remain under development. This scientific reality supports delaying any irreversible decisions that could lead to permanent physiological changes. Another alarming consequence of this legislation is its potential misuse in child custody cases. In contentious divorces or separations, one parent could exploit this law to accuse the other of abuse or neglect simply for disagreeing with or questioning a child’s stated gender identity. This bill could be used as a legal tool to: Undermine one parent’s custody rights based on ideological differences rather than abuse or neglect, Retaliate in family court by claiming the other parent is “unsupportive,” regardless of their actual care or concern for the child, Force one parent into silence or compliance out of fear of losing custody.

	This is a dangerous precedent. Custody decisions should be based on a child's safety, emotional well-being, and the presence of abuse—not on whether a parent affirms unproven or reversible identity claims in children. This bill is: A violation of parental rights, A threat to constitutional freedoms of speech and religion, A neglect of developmental and scientific realities, A potential weapon in custody disputes, harming both children and co-parenting dynamics, An ethical failure that risks our children's mental and physical health. Passing this bill would harm not only individual children but also the broader structure of families and community life in our state. I respectfully and urgently request that you vote against this legislation. Sincerely, Andrea Volesky Mead, Colorado
Gayle Sanford Against themselves	This bill is a blatant affront to parental rights, free speech, and the health of children and adults struggling with gender dysphoria. This bill wishes to strip parents of their right to nurture their children as they see fit, to help them steer the course of adolescence, maintaining their biological identity. As studies have shown, 98% of children with gender dysphoria grow to accept their biological sex by adulthood. It is against my conscience to affirm an ideology which is harmful to the individual and is shown to increase risk of suicide and suicidal ideation. This bill puts undue burden on educators and individuals, who now have to try to be mind readers to determine what gender pronoun someone would like to be referred to today, which may be different tomorrow or the next day. A mistaken gender could now be a criminal offense, even if there is no hurtful intent behind it.

	This bill is extreme. It is not suitable for the citizens of Colorado. Colorado is already an accepting state. There are already protections in place for transgender individuals. This bill is suppressing rights and freedoms, not adding. Thank you.
Ingrid Le Floch Against themselves	This should not even be considered until a person's brain is fully formed at 25 years old. Whoever tried to push this bill as a form of "right" has a severe lack of knowledge of child psychology or even has malicious intent so as to remove the child's future self assurance or their ability to have children if they so choose to. Gender is not clothing or choice of self-expression. Children want to emulate what they see and like, they have no concept of what gender is, they have no concept of what the Victorian Era has pushed on society regarding "gender roles."
Ryleigh Coffee For themselves	I have lived in Colorado since I was four years old and I am incredibly proud of it. I am proud to live in Colorado because this state has continually been on the side of progress, and it breaks my heart to think that so many people want to reverse that progress. As a lesbian in a small town, some of the only people who have made me feel safe and comfortable in my identity are transgender. Some of the kindest people I have met are transgender and any law that protects them is a law Colorado should pass. Might I remind anyone who opposes this bill that transgender people always have and always will exist, it's just a matter of whether or not you feel it is worthy tearing families apart. Trans people will continue to exist, this bill just makes sure that they can exist safely.
Perry Bell Against themselves	Perry Wm. Bell, Pastor 3133 56th Avenue Court Greeley, CO 80634 Email: perrywmbell@gmail.com 303-229-7117 29 April 2025 Colorado General Assembly House of Representatives 200 E Colfax Ave Denver, CO 80203 Dear Members of the Colorado House of Representatives, I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 25-1312. While I understand the intent to protect the rights and well-being of LGBTQ+ youth, I am deeply concerned that this bill, as currently drafted, may have unintended

	consequences that could adversely affect families and the integrity of our judicial system. Concerns Regarding HB 25-1312: 1. Potential for Misuse in Custody Disputes: The bill allows one parent to assert that a child identifies as LGBTQ+ or transgender without requiring independent confirmation from the child or a qualified professional. This could enable a parent to unilaterally define a child's identity and accuse the other parent of abuse or coercive control for expressing differing views or concerns. Such provisions may be exploited in high-conflict custody battles, leading to unjust outcomes and further straining family relationships. Colorado Resilience 2. Criminalization of Parental Dissent: By equating a parent's hesitation or refusal to immediately affirm a child's asserted identity with abuse, the bill risks criminalizing thoughtful and good-faith parenting. Parents who advocate for a cautious, evidence-based approach—especially concerning medical interventions—may face legal repercussions, infringing upon their rights to make informed decisions in their child's best interest. Colorado Resilience 3. Lack of Safeguards Against False Allegations: The absence of requirements for independent verification or professional assessment opens the door for false or strategic allegations. This not only jeopardizes the accused parent's rights but also undermines the credibility of genuine claims, potentially harming the very individuals the bill aims to protect. Colorado Resilience Recommendations: To address these concerns, I urge the legislature to consider the following amendments: • Require Independent Verification: Mandate assessments by qualified professionals to confirm a child's asserted identity before any legal actions are taken against a parent. • Protect Parental Rights: Ensure that parents can express concerns and seek comprehensive evaluations without fear of legal repercussions, provided their actions are in good faith and prioritize the child's well-being. • Implement Safeguards Against Misuse: Introduce clear criteria and evidentiary standards to prevent the exploitation of the bill's provisions in custody disputes. Colorado Resilience In conclusion, while the protection of LGBTQ+ youth is paramount, it is equally important to uphold the rights of parents and maintain the integrity of our family court system. I respectfully request that you reconsider the provisions of HB 25-1312 to ensure a balanced and just approach that truly serves the best interests of all children and families in Colorado.

	Thank you for your attention to this matter. Sincerely, Perry Wm. Bell, Pastor
Godfrey Blankenship Against himself	Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee: As a professed Christian, I aspire to love my neighbor and to do unto others as I would have them do unto me. However, I must confess that at times, due to acts of omission or commission, I fall short of those standards. While I believe that discrimination in any form is wrong and harmful, I may at times be guilty of it myself due to a lack of understanding, insensitivity, impatience, or engrained biases. In short, I am a flawed person, but with God's help and forgiveness, I hope to become more like Jesus. I believe that the sponsors of HB25-1312 are well-intentioned. After all, who wouldn't want transgender individuals and, especially, children, to be protected from discrimination, abuse, and harm, not only in the home, but everywhere. Furthermore, although I strongly oppose this bill, I thank the sponsors for proposing it, because it has prompted me (and, hopefully, others) to do some research regarding the transgender issue and helped me better understand how complex of an issue it truly is. Public understanding of, and empathy regarding the complexities of the transgender issue, can only benefit from having more information about it and opportunities for discussion of the topic. According to Confucius, "The strength of a nation derives from the strength of the home." By extension, the family unit is the foundation of society. Regrettably, the foundation of the United States may be on shaky ground because, according to a Forbes' article, "Key Divorce Statistics in 2025" (https://www.forbes.com/advisor/legal/divorce/divorce-statistics/#key_divorce_statistics_in_2025_section), approximately 43% of first marriages, 60% of second marriages, and 73% of third marriages are dissolved. The crucible filled with pressures bearing down on families is overflowing, while the tools and support available to help them cope with the myriad challenges they face to remain intact appear, in many cases, to be lacking. Newlyweds and fledgling parents may not have the skills or be adequately prepared to shoulder the responsibilities they tacitly accepted when they recited their wedding vows. They, themselves, may lack good role models because they, too, were raised in dysfunctional or broken families, as were their parents and grandparents before them.

	The Forbes' article indicates that 75% of individuals surveyed cited a lack of commitment as the reason for their divorces. Other primary reasons cited were infidelity, domestic violence, and drug abuse. When marriages seemingly fracture beyond repair, especially when children are involved, life in the home can be extremely traumatic for all concerned, and can become adversarial. Although not always possible, it would be ideal for the family and society, if the partners in serious domestic disputes could be encouraged and helped to resolve their differences and heal their marriages, rather than to fracture and, potentially, begin the cycle again. When marriages end up in divorce court, the process of determining child custody and parenting time is already reasonably comprehensive and exacting, without adding allegations that one partner or the other "misgendered" or "deadnamed" their child. Divorce proceedings and child custody hearings can be very emotionally-charged, and I would conjecture that not every allegation made by one spouse or parent against the other is always based in fact. From day-to-day, spouses, parents, children, and families, must try their best to navigate successfully through many choppy waters and storms that assail them. They can face numerous daunting and compounding challenges, as well as competing priorities. For example, do they possess adequate necessities of life, i.e., shelter, food, clothing, transportation, and medical care, etc.? Is the physical or mental health of any of the family members impaired? Do the parents have multiple children and do any of them have special needs? Are any family members dealing with substance abuse issues? The foregoing challenges by themselves, much less in combination, could strain to the breaking point a family's harmony, cohesiveness, finances, and resiliency. Add to these the need to make potentially life-altering and possibly irreversible decisions having to do with the transition of a beloved child's gender, and the uncertainty and emotions involved would likely be overwhelming. In my opinion, having expert advice, the support of family, friends, professionals, and the government, as well as massive amounts of understanding and grace, would be appropriate at times like these. Conversely, having the HB25-1312 "Sword of Damocles" hanging over the heads of parents who might slip up and call their child by the name they have been called since birth, while struggling desperately to make the right decision on their behalf, especially when there is not a consensus among the parents, could be overly intrusive and punitive. Before voting on this measure, I would strongly recommend that Senators read the Wikipedia article found at the link below, a few excerpts from which are also pasted below that.

	Thank you, Godfrey Blankenship https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intersex Infants, children and adolescents also experience "normalising" interventions on intersex persons that are medically unnecessary and the pathologisation of variations in sex characteristics. In countries where the human rights of intersex people have been studied, medical interventions to modify the sex characteristics of intersex people have still taken place without the consent of the intersex person.[124][125] Interventions have been described by human rights defenders as a violation of many rights, including (but not limited to) bodily integrity, non-discrimination, privacy, and experimentation.[126] These interventions have frequently been performed with the consent of the intersex person's parents, when the person is legally too young to consent. Such interventions have been criticized by the WHO, other UN bodies such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and an increasing number of regional and national institutions due to their adverse consequences, including trauma, impact on sexual function and sensation, and violation of rights to physical and mental integrity.[citation needed] The UN organizations decided that infant intervention should not be allowed, in favor of waiting for the child to mature enough to be a part of the decision-making—this allows for a decision to be made with total consent.[127] In April 2015, Malta became the first country to outlaw surgical intervention without consent.[36][37] In the same year, the Council of Europe became the first institution to state that intersex people have the right not to undergo sex affirmation interventions.[64] Remedies and claims for compensation Main article: Intersex human rights Claims for compensation and remedies for human rights abuses include the 2011 case of Christiane Völling in Germany.[35][134] A second case was adjudicated in Chile in 2012, involving a child and his parents.[135][136] A further successful case in Germany, taken by Michaela Raab, was reported in 2015.[137] In the United States, the Minor Child (M.C. v Aaronson) lawsuit was "a medical malpractice case related to the informed consent for a surgery performed on the Crawford's adopted child (known as M.C.) at [Medical University of South Carolina] in April 2006".[138] The case was one of the first lawsuit of its type to challenge "legal, ethical, and medical issues regarding genital-normalizing surgery" in minors, and was eventually settled out of court by the Medical University of South Carolina for \$440,000 in 2017.[139]

Tim Cerniglia Against themselves	My testimony is simple. Compelling individuals to lie at the behest of the State is immoral and Unconstitutional. "The Supreme Court's decision in <i>West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette</i> (1943) is the classic example of the compelled speech doctrine at work. In this case, the Court ruled that a state cannot force children to stand, salute the flag, and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The justices held that school children who are Jehovah's Witnesses, for religious reasons, had a First Amendment right not to recite the Pledge of Allegiance or salute the U.S. flag. In oft-cited language, Justice Robert H. Jackson asserted, "If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein." *https://firstamendment.mtsu.edu/article/compelled-speech/ This bill you are considering is an obscenity before the Law, the citizens, and before God. You are forcing parents to lie to their children. You are compelling speech. And I will happily and eagerly disobey this law at every opportunity, and will seek out opportunities to disobey this law, should it get the Governor's signature. It is not hyperbole to state that only a child sexual predator would vote for this bill. And only a totalitarian dictatorship compels the people to speak only the words approved by said dictatorship.
Joshua Villanueva Against themselves	I am against this. This is barbaric against the nuclear family unit. Please consider dismantling this unconstitutional bill down. Thank you.
ANITA LOVATO Against themselves	This bill blatantly ignores the religious liberty of all parents and individuals who believe in a biblical view of male and female. It is truly a threat to ALL Colorado parents and Christians. This bill attacks parental rights, religious freedom, and the free speech of all Coloradans. This bill will cause destruction of families, and so many downstream effects. Please vote no!
Erin Miller Against themselves	Chair and Senate Judiciary Members, I am writing to ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. When a bill of this magnitude is pushed through on a Sunday under Rule 16, with barely any time for concerned citizens to speak up, it just further divides and unnecessarily polarizes Coloradans. Complicated issues like the ones at hand

	deserve the full benefit of a comprehensive legislative process, so that balanced and thoughtful solutions can be reached that are more representative of the viewpoints of all Coloradoans. This bill and the limited debate accompanying it to date have assumed that Coloradoans are either simply "for or against" protecting transgender individuals, when the reality is much more nuanced. While protecting the civil rights of transgender individuals is very important, there are ways to do so that don't also overreach and infringe on the constitutional rights of other Coloradoans. The government should clearly not be in the middle of serious medical decisions that should be made by the parents who love and care daily for their children. Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to vote NO on HB25-1312 and to instead come up with a narrowly-tailored and rational solution to these nuanced issues that more effectively balances the constitutional rights of all Coloradoans. Best, Erin Miller
Patricia Morehouse Against themselves	I'm writing to urge to reject House Bill 25-1312 regarding transgender individuals. My main concerns include the danger it instills on children, the division it creates in families, the dystopia it creates in society and the unsettled medical science regarding gender dysphoria treatment. European countries such as the U.K., Denmark, Sweden and Norway have established restrictions on gender dysphoria treatment for children while further study is in progress. This is due to testimony (and lawsuits) from individuals whose lives were ruined because they didn't understand the long term implications of gender transition. Please see one of "The Economist's 2021 Books of the Year": Irreversible Damage by Abigail Shrier. In my opinion the idea of separating parents from their children during a time when they are most vulnerable is unconscionable. This bill instills division among parents, teachers, medical providers, government officials and the general public. I urge you to reject this bill. Regards,

	P. Morehouse
David Nelson Against themselves	Regarding HB25-1312, I am a retired classroom teacher and I believe that a parent's consent was and still is required to even dispense an aspirin to a student regarding their physical health and wellbeing. That said, teachers want to have parents involved, especially as it pertains to both the physical as well as the mental health of their child. It is NOT THE JOB OF THE STATE to dictate and assume the job of parenting. Who bore and provided for the student? Obviously, it was the parents or possibly a relative and they expect to have a part in the safety and destiny of their son or daughter. Please take a moment and ask yourself, "If this student were my child, would I want the state to take over the nurturing of him or her?" I humbly ask you to VOTE NO on this bill and let it die, Thank You for your consideration. David Nelson
Chad Smith For themselves	I support this act wholeheartedly. It will provide much needed protections for a vulnerable group of people in a time of great peril for them. I love and support my trans friends, and I think this act is in their best interests as well as in the best interests of all the kind, good-hearted people in Colorado. I love this state and think it's a great place to live, I urge you to pass this act to make sure it stays that way for everyone!
Brandon Hilyard Against themselves	HB 25-1312 is an assault on parental rights in the state of Colorado. This bill, if passed, would not only overstep the boundary of parental rights, but also religious freedom in Colorado. This bill compels speech by forcing parents to accept a childhood delusion forced on children by the government via public schools or risk losing their children. Furthermore, it criminalizes speech that God created only two genders, in line with Christianity. By refusing to use the language of transgenderism, Christians can be paraded as examples of noncompliance by the State of Colorado to place fear into others that they must comply or have their lives turned upside down. If the State of Colorado, and those elected to represent the citizens of Colorado, truly care about children in the state, you must reject the further encroachment of transgenderism in the state. The harmful impacts of transgender ideology on children is well documented, and you have the power to stop it in its tracks. Parents have the right to raise their children and the state cannot replace parents in the lives of children. The outcry against this bill is readily apparent in Colorado. You have been elected to represent the people of Colorado. You were not elected to represent an ideology

	rooted in delusion and penalize citizens in Colorado. The transgender movement has encroached too far into the lives of Coloradoans already, and it leaves nothing but chaos and harm in its wake. I urge you to listen to the voices crying out against this bill as they are the canary in the coal mine trying to warn you of the harm you will unleash in Colorado by passing this bill through dismissing parental rights and criminalizing speech. Colorado was historically a state that paved the way in the west. It's time we begin acting like it again by taking our state back from the hands of the transgender ideology and do what is best for Colorado's children and all of its citizens. HB 25-1312 must end in the senate.
Maria Vargas Against themselves	Position on the Hearing Item – Against HB25-1312 Oppose House Bill HB25-1312 Before It Kills Parental Rights. This bill does not protect - it punishes. It causes a negative impact on parental rights. This bill is an egregious next step in the bold assault on parental rights in Colorado. As an adult, live your life as you wish but LEAVE OUR KIDS ALONE! We, because there are many, are asking every Colorado Senator and Governor Jared Polis to oppose HB25-1312.
Natalie Tiggelman For themselves	My name is Natalie Tiggelman, and I am a proud transgender Coloradan. I'm here today to urge you to vote in favor of HB25-1312, the Kelly Loving Act. For many trans people like me, simple dignity — being called by the right name, being respected for who we are — is not guaranteed. Too often, we are misgendered, deadnamed, or singled out by policies that don't see us as fully human. These daily harms are not just emotional wounds; they have lasting impacts on our mental health, education, and safety. This bill addresses real gaps in protections. It ensures that children seeking gender-affirming care are not torn from supportive families. It requires schools to recognize chosen names for all reasons, removes outdated gendered dress codes, and strengthens protections against public misgendering and deadnaming. These are basic, necessary steps to recognize our humanity under the law. The Kelly Loving Act lives up to its name — it protects with love and affirms that transgender people deserve safety, dignity, and respect. I ask you to stand with us and vote in favor of passing HB25-1312. Thank you.
Jacqueline Stultz For	My name is Jacqueline Stultz from Boulder CO.

themselves	I want to ensure that the transgender youth will be protected and I am in favor of this bill. I have close friends that identify as transgender as well as co workers I have worked with in the past. Seeing these friends suffer due to unfair legislation was upsetting and immoral. I would like these protections to be solidified for future generations and any children in my life that this will affect. Thank you.
Patti Amick Against themselves	I am opposed to HB 25-1312 because: (1) It is an unconstitutional assault and undermines parental rights. (2) It circumvents child protection laws, thereby barring recognition of out-of-state laws protecting minors from irreversible gender transitions. (3) It imposes gender ideology in schools. (4) It is an attack on free speech and religious liberty. (5) Teachers and school staff could be forced to comply with policies that violate their personal beliefs. So, I ask you to vote no on HB 25-1312 Thank you. Patti Amick
Emma Orth Against themselves	This bill is a direct violation of my biblical rights to parent my children. I have no desire to force my beliefs and practices on unwilling parties as that only causes further division. I have my beliefs and I can understand that others have their own as well. My children are mine. Something as radical as criminalizing parents for calling their children by their given name is unheard of. As long as they are under 18, as research has shown, they are growing developmentally and may experiment and question themselves. That doesn't give the state the right to mandate that I just call my kids by different names/genders. This is not a matter of opinion. My husband and I are the sole parents of our children.
Jacquelyn Faiola Against themselves	As a Christian, it is of deep concern to me that the government is wanting to decide what a child should be taught without input from the parent. Discrimination is a hot topic in society today and I do believe that Christians are a target of many people. Christians have constitutional rights to protect their children by raising and teaching them the core beliefs of their faith. Young children's minds are impressionable and can become confused by people of authority teaching something that goes against our belief. School teachers are expected to teach students how to read, write, and do mathematics. They, and the government, are not the ones to determine the child's upbringing, what they believe, or their gender. Those decisions are to be left to the parents or the child when they are mature enough to make their own decision.

	Just as atheists don't want their children to be taught Christian values in schools, Christians don't want their children taught non-Biblical viewpoints as facts.
Maddie Omdahl For themselves	I support bill HB-1312 because it will bring much needed protection to the trans community. As someone with a trans sibling and several trans friends it is so hard to watch their mental health deteriorate due to discrimination. Watching my sibling's mental health deteriorate after being forced to fit into a gender norm is cruel and should never happen to anyone. I have a coworker they got their car windows smashed in just for having a trans pride sticker on their car. This should not be allowed, we need to protect trans rights. Please pass bill HB-1312
Sharise Plescia Against themselves	The Legislative HB 25-1312, "Kelly Loving Act" Raises Serious Concerns for Families and Parental Rights Colorado's proposed "Kelly Loving Act" is being promoted as a compassionate measure to support transgender individuals, especially minors. But beneath its well-meaning language lie serious concerns about parental rights, legal overreach, and children's mental health. As a parent and a citizen, I'm deeply troubled by a bill that risks replacing nuance with ideology and pushes families apart at the moment they most need understanding and unity. Parental Rights Are at Risk Section 2 of the bill empowers courts to treat actions like "deadnaming" or "misgendering" as forms of coercive control. This means that if a parent refers to their child by their legal name — perhaps out of concern, confusion, or due to their religious beliefs — that act could be used against them in a custody dispute. This sets a dangerous precedent. Reasonable, protective parenting could be labeled as abuse, simply for not fully affirming a child's identity in the exact way the law prescribes. In doing so, the state risks interfering in deeply personal family dynamics and undermining a parent's role in caring for their child's emotional, spiritual, and physical wellbeing. Vague Legal Standards Invite Bias The bill leans heavily on subjective concepts like "coercive control," without clearly defining what constitutes harmful behavior. Courts could interpret everyday disagreements or expressions of concern as psychological abuse. This opens the door to inconsistent rulings and politicized enforcement that erodes trust in the justice system and diminishes parental authority.

	When legal definitions are this vague, they become tools of interpretation rather than justice. Families should not have to worry that their good-faith efforts to support their children could be mischaracterized by someone who disagrees with their approach. Mental Health Risks Are Being Overlooked Gender dysphoria is a real and deeply personal issue. But this bill promotes immediate affirmation as the only acceptable response, sidelining mental health assessments and discouraging caution. Parents who seek second opinions or recommend therapy before medical steps are taken could be seen as obstructive or even harmful. By sidelining parents, the bill risks isolating children from those who know them best and who are ultimately responsible for their long-term care. Compassion should not mean cutting parents out of the conversation — especially when lifelong consequences are at stake. Educational Overreach Undermines Collaboration Sections 4 through 6 of the bill extend state mandates to public schools, requiring that inclusive policies on names, pronouns, and dress codes be adopted across the board. These provisions risk sidelining the insights of local educators and families. Instead of encouraging collaboration between schools and parents, the bill imposes top-down rules that may ignore community values and student-specific needs. Schools should work with families, not around them, to support all students. Cross-State Conflicts Add Fuel to Family Tensions Section 3 prevents Colorado courts from cooperating with other states if those states allow parents to be investigated for supporting gender-affirming care. This undermines legal consistency between states and risks encouraging parents to flee across borders to seek favorable custody outcomes. Far from reducing conflict, this move could further escalate legal battles and split families apart. Family law should strive to resolve disputes and protect children's best interests — not create incentives for jurisdictional battles that complicate already painful situations. A Call for Balance and Common Sense There is no question that the transgender community should be treated with kindness. But the "Kelly Loving Act," as written, goes too far. By prioritizing a rigid

	ideological framework over individual family dynamics and mental health, it risks harming the very people it claims to protect. Parents are not abusers simply for asking questions, seeking professional guidance, or moving slowly. Children are not well-served by laws that divide families and fast-track life-altering medical decisions without full understanding. We can do better. We must find a path that supports compassion and common sense — one that respects the role of parents, protects children’s mental health, and encourages families to navigate these challenges together, not in courtrooms.
Jessica Chickering For themselves	I am a licensed mental health counseling candidate (LPCC) practicing in Denver, Colorado. I am writing today to express my full support for the Kelly Loving Act because I recognize that transgender clients fight daily for the right to exist in peace in public spaces, in their schools, in their families, and their own minds. This bill is about saving lives, protecting dignity, ensuring legal clarity, and putting Colorado on the right side of history. The Kelly Loving Act contains critical protections. It prohibits Colorado courts from enforcing out-of-state rulings that would strip a parent of custody simply because they supported their child in accessing gender-affirming care. As a therapist, I can tell you that nothing is more protective of a young person’s mental health than parental affirmation. It ensures that if a school already allows chosen names, like nicknames, they must allow all students to use their chosen names, including transgender and nonbinary youth. This is a basic recognition of identity, and frankly, it should not still be up for debate. The bill prohibits schools from enforcing gender-based dress codes and allows students to wear any variation of a dress code, regardless of gender. This prevents harassment and shame, especially for trans students navigating a world already stacked against them. Most critically, this bill explicitly defines intentional deadnaming and misgendering as discriminatory practices. It bars these harmful acts from public materials like school yearbooks and announcements. These are not trivial slights; they are targeted psychological attacks that compound trauma, disrupt identity development, and increase the risk of mental health crises. Let me be clear: The fallout of discrimination is enormous and includes elevated levels of depression, panic attacks, PTSD, and increased chronic suicidality. These are not hypothetical outcomes. They are the result of a system that tells trans people, especially youth, that they are unwelcome, unworthy, unsafe, and expendable. This bill tells them something else: that Colorado sees them, values them, and will defend their right to exist. At a time when extremist politicians across this country are targeting trans youth and their families, this bill sets a national precedent for what it looks like to lead with courage and care.

	I urge this committee, and the entire Senate, to pass the Kelly Loving Act. The mental health, safety, and future of thousands of Coloradans depend on it. Thank you.
Revn Onduto For themselves	Greetings, My name is Raven Michelle Onduto. I am a transgender feminine person, and am hopeful that the Kelly Loving Act will be passed so that we can help the most vulnerable among us, gender questioning and trans youth. I always felt wrong, but lived in such a hyper masculine environment, I never understood who I was or even what my choices were. As an example my father disowned me at 18 just for having long hair, and I didn't even know I was trans yet, and struggled with mental health issues (including suicidal ideation) for decades. I transitioned very late as a result, not until lockdown during the pandemic when I understood a lot more, and had time to think. Suicide is very high for kids and adults when they don't receive the acceptance for their gender identity that they deserve. I truly hope those younger than me can find the acceptance that I didn't get when I was growing up, be allowed to live as their authentic selves, and go on to be happy in life. These legal protections feel like a great step in helping that to become a reality, at least for Colorado residents. Thank you very much for your time, and consideration. Raven Michelle Onduto
Kristin de Windt Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love.

	This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Caroline Ashley Against themselves	I writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Francis McCann Against themselves	This proposed bill is a direct attack against parents and their responsibilities as parents. This bill is something you might expect being proposed in a communist country where the "state" wants to indoctrinate young children and turn them against their parents. Attempting to criminalize a parents rights is very scary.
Kaelyn Swetala Against themselves	I don't believe a parent should lose their right to care for their child if they disagree with gender affirming services. As a child. Kids change their opinions a lot. Medical reviews from countries like Sweden, Finland, and England have shown little evidence supporting the safety or effectiveness of "gender-affirming care" for minors. I don't believe a parent should be considered unfit or charged with coercive control because of that.

Mark Feliz Against himself	PUSHING PARENTS AROUND HAS GOT TO BACKFIRE ON THE COLORADO DEMOCRAT PARTY SOONER OR LATER! I am an unaffiliated voter. Please explain to me how a parent who refers to their trans-identifying child by his or her birth name or uses pronouns consistent with the child's biological sex could be deemed to be engaging in "coercive control."?? Please explain to me how minor children could not regret their gender transition, and how it isn't cruel if their parent's weren't behind the permanent alteration and the kid later on regrets it. Would you define how you define "families" in this instance; both parents or just one of them? Establish Colorado as a "sanctuary state" for families seeking gender-affirming care that might be restricted or criminalized in their home states. Why isn't your bill not violating the First Amendment rights of Coloradans and visitors to Colorado? Mark Feliz Colorado Springs
Haley Bohall Against himself	I oppose this bill as a parent and teacher's aide with fifteen years experience working with 6-16 year old boys and girls. I do not have studies to cite, only personal experience to draw on, and I appreciate your time and attention. I have worked with adolescents who are wrestling with their identity and self worth. All adolescents wrestle with these subjects - just ask every adult. I believe that the most influential figures in a child's life are their parents/caretakers, teachers, and coaches. This bill risks paralyzing parents/caregivers, teachers, and coaches alike with fear of speaking into kids' lives. It is not a child's job to be able to differentiate truth from lies, fact from fiction, emotions from values. Adults are responsible for the safety and well-being of kids, and are charged with lovingly guiding them through life's challenges, particularly the internal growth challenges we all experience (what is my place in this world?, what motivates me?, who do I want to be?, etc). At a time when adults should be providing loving guidance, do we really want them to pause and wonder, "Will my advice be used against me in a court of law?" Would you consider letting a 12 year old decide that he or she is mature enough to start drinking alcohol? Would you consider letting a 9 year old set a household grocery budget? Common sense tells us that kids are not developmentally capable of making these decisions, so why should we let kids decide what their gender is, that the name their parents gave them does not fit them, that the adults in their life aren't acting in their best interest? Any parent/caregiver of a teenager (myself included) will tell you that kids cannot always see what's in their best interest. Rather than giving more "power" to the kids and saddling adults with a greater burden of fear and

	doubt than many parents already wrestle with, we should be focusing on helping parents find the confidence to speak lovingly into their children's lives. Many parents today (my friends and family included), live in fear of "saying the wrong thing" or being viewed as toxic/uncool. Kids have lower attention spans than ever due to the constant sensory overload they experience (screens at school, social media at home), and they are being exposed to sexually suggestive material at young ages, despite parents' best efforts to protect them. These outside forces inevitably collide with parents' values, which creates tension between kids and parents. This, in turn, creates fearfulness in parents, which discourages them from engaging with their kids on hard topics. Kids need loving guidance. Parents/ caregivers, teachers, and coaches are the guardrails that kids are supposed to be able to rely on to protect and defend them. Please do not enact a bill that will perpetuate fear-based teaching and parenting, discourage teachers from investing in their students, and subject kids to more "autonomy" than they are developmentally prepared for.
Tamar Peister Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Brandy Burson Against themselves	Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

	I am a parent living in Colorado, and I strongly oppose HB25-1312. This bill deeply concerns me because it undermines the role of parents in making critical decisions for their children's health and well-being. As a parent, I love and support my child unconditionally. But I also believe it's my responsibility to ensure that any medical decisions—especially irreversible ones—are made with careful thought, full understanding, and guidance from professionals I trust. Under this bill, if I express hesitation or seek alternative treatments, I could be seen as unsupportive and even risk losing custody. That is not fair, and it is not right. HB25-1312 also invites minors from other states to undergo gender-related medical procedures in Colorado without parental consent. As a parent, I cannot imagine the heartbreak of not knowing where my child is or what they are going through. No legislation should enable that kind of secrecy or remove parents from such important decisions. This bill also forces schools to adopt policies that may conflict with the values and needs of their local communities, leaving little room for dialogue or compromise. Parents, educators, and students should be working together—not silenced by a top-down mandate. I urge you to vote NO on HB25-1312. Please stand up for families, for thoughtful medical care, and for the rights of parents to care for their own children. Sincerely, Brandy Burson Ignacio, CO
Janet Feeder Against themselves	I have taught 29 years in public high schools and saw transgender issues come into the classroom in the late 90's. My biology students asked questions like "how can a man have a baby?" I answered straight up how that could not happen. As the years went by it has always been my responsibility to give students the most accurate scientific truth available. To this date there never has been a case where a person has successfully been changed from a male to a female or vice versa. If the people in this

	government insist on promoting this charade by passing bill HB25-1312, it will be as though they are feeding lies to the most vulnerable people in our culture. Children have rights to be treated with care, protection and the truth.
James Duke Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Heidi Hannan Against themselves	I'm writing to inform you that I testify against Hb25-1312. There is no reason to revoke rights from parents to be able to call their child by the name they were given. These are all children chosen by god and the names follow suit. If a child wishes for a name change it is a discussion between the child's legal parents and child to decide whether or not it happens. If the decision is no than the child can make there decisions when they are 18 and legally responsible by law for themselves. Pushing transgender wants among the people because you all want to be accepted is wrong the rest of us don't do that. Learn to accept yourself for who you are or want to be first and foremost and the rest falls into place. Placing laws thinking you are protecting transgender is creating more issues than needed and drawing negative attention on the matters.

Solomon Jewel For themselves	Thank you for giving me a chance to say my peace. I have worked with multiple schools, and seen children with chosen names, for reasons related to being trans and also for other reasons. It is lifechanging when a child's name is used as they choose, and if for some reason a deadname comes up then it can shatter their mental health and cause them to socially withdraw when before they were blooming and making connections with their peers. This can be due to family abuse, one child refused to respond to his legal name because his father was an abusive drunk. Being allowed to be called Chase instead allowed him to reciprocate friendship and connect with his classmates, and then if someone was calling him his legal name no one would respond, there would be confusion, and it would just cause unnecessary chaos. Other children were withdrawn because they were trans and being called by their deadname made them withdraw and be extremely sad. But calling them by their chosen name had them assimilating into the social environment and happy. So as you can see, if a student is cis or trans, both benefit extremely from not being deadnamed. There are students who would have graduated if only they were not deadnamed. Other states are making young Americans worry about being lynched for things they have no control over, and Colorado is better than that. This state is a safe place, and if we let southerners steal our kids to put them in places where they would rather be dead than alive, it is no better than killing them ourselves. We love our children and we want them to thrive, we can't let Texas steal and abuse kids from Colorado adults because some wanna be cowboys are afraid of pronouns. Finally, dresscodes based on gender have no proven benefit to the students, and have often been used to discriminate against cis girls and cis boys. There is no benefit for an 8 year old to have random adults tell her that her tank top reveals too much shoulders. Additionally dresscodes have been predominantly used against girls to discriminate against them in ways that boys didn't have to deal with. Young girls are often sexualized due to dress code, but young boys who literally have their underwear on display for 3 inches are not sexualized due to the dresscode they violate even though both young girls and young boys would be reprimanded. Gendered dress codes provide no benefit to children's well being, the only function they serve is shaming and sexualizing young girls, and gendered dress codes deserve to be abolished. Trans kids deserve to be safe and grow up to be a productive part of the workforce, the discrimination regarding deadnames is preventing many of my friends from contributing to the economy because they aren't being hired due to the

	discrimination of having a chosen name- it's fine for William to go by Dick and work fulltime, but Susan can't go by Bob and get a job. What inanity is this?
Craig Crownover Against themselves	Hello I respectfully oppose HB25-1312, as I believe it represents an overreach of governmental authority and imposes burdensome regulations that may have unintended consequences for families, small businesses, and local communities. Legislation of this scope requires greater transparency, public input, and careful consideration of its long-term impacts. I urge lawmakers to prioritize policies that support individual rights, economic freedom, and support parental authority, rather than expanding state control in ways that risk undermining these fundamental values. Specifically, this bill will undermine parental rights, circumvent child protection laws, impose gender ideology in schools, and attack free speech and religious liberty.
Dorian Sprenger Against themselves	This bill only covers up a deeper rooted issue. The heart of the child. It only takes into consideration a small part of a personal preference but does not taken into consideration what happens after the child is taken. What happens then? Continued vulnerability away from the people who love them and want the best for them. While the child is at home the parents have the utmost responsibility to guard and guide their hearts and minds. Once they become adults the children are accountable for their own actions, and hopefully the parents will have equipped them and raise them the best that they could. All under the parents guardianship, the government must come alongside parents and aid in this hard but extremely important task of raising the future generation. If we have a society who thrives on dividing families, what will become of the future generation? We have already seen the decimation of divorces and broken homes. This bill will not solve the issue, As a Christian mother, I am called to teach and raise my children in the commands of the Lord, who created them male and female. This is His good design. He does not make mistakes. The family is His design where father and mother will guide and lead their children in the statutes of the Lord. Our children are best with their parents who are concerned with their hearts. I heard this question from one speaker is "Do our children belong to the state or do they belong to their parents?" A wonderful question to ask ourselves in this scenario. I plead with you to remove this bill and prioritize the right things. May God spare our children from this harmful belief that they can become different from how they were born. We will all be held accountable to the Lord for our actions. Please do not do this to families and our precious children, who are in their I heard this question from one speaker is "Do our children belong to the state or do they belong to their parents?" A wonderful question to ask ourselves in this scenario. years of folly and are so easily persuaded. We must protect them. Thank you for your time.

Julia Fox Against themselves	To Colorado's Senators, Please vote NO on HB25 - 1312. This bill represents a gross overreach of the government into citizen's private affairs and violates our country's Constitution. The government has no place legislating issues pertaining to gender identity. What if the shoe were on the other foot and a bill were presented that criminalized homosexuality or transgenderism? There would be a great outcry against that as well, and in light of our country's Constitution, rightfully so. Personal matters of identity are NOT political affairs. Please vote NO on this dangerous bill.
CYNTHIA HALVERSON Against themselves	I would like my voice to be heard in requesting that our Governor NOT sign this bill that could potentially cause even more mental anguish and emotional damage to our precious children. It is harmful enough that teachers and staff have been indoctrinating and confusing our innocent children on who they are and whose they are. To take them out of their home and nurturing over the affirming (or not) of a pronoun should not be an issue let alone a legal issue. PLEASE DO NOT SIGN THIS BILL!
Kirsten Anderson Against themselves	I am a lifelong democrat and I strongly oppose this bill. I am also a mental health professional and oppose this bill. Adolescence is a time of finding ones identity and trying on different personas. When schools adopt a new gender identity with a child they are making a mental health intervention (and solidifying an identity) they are not equipped to evaluate or provide. Schools are also failing to include parents and make the assumption that parents are "not safe" thus putting families and children in terrible positions. The rate of girls proclaiming transgender identification has risen 4000% which raises real red flags. I have kids in schools and have seen it. Children who socially transition are often put on a path towards medicalization and life altering decisions regarding health, fertility, and future relationships. The teens and even adults and parents are not getting informed of the side effects, seriousness or complications of these interventions. Lawsuits are starting. Many other countries are rolling back these policies after further evaluation of studies and outcomes. They have concluded there is actually very weak evidence for transitioning and many of the people have unaddressed comorbid conditions including sexual abuse, autism, ADHD, anxiety, depression, just to name a few. Many of these kids do not improve or get worse when they transition. In our state this is also happening because real therapy is not allowed to happen under the guise of conversion therapy bans. Please read the CASS report and the WPATH files. This is one of the reasons the Dems lost the election, but Dems are not talking about it because it is so toxic. You will also be voted out if you support these super radical bills. I am horrified how this has been pushed through without proper public comment.
Laura White For themselves	To the Members of the Colorado State Legislature: I write to you as both a citizen and a biologist at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. In my professional and personal life, I am fortunate to know and work alongside people of many different backgrounds, life experiences, and gender identities. I'm writing today in strong support of this bill because it reflects the basic

	decency and dignity that every child deserves — to be seen, supported, and respected for who they are. In my community, I have watched the difference it makes when trans kids (and kids of all gender identities!) know that there are adults in their lives who will stand up for them. The impact is profound. It is the difference between fear and safety, isolation and belonging, silence and possibility. As Mr. Rogers once said, “Everyone longs to be loved — and the greatest thing we can do is to let people know that they are loved and capable of loving.” That’s what this bill does. It sends the message to trans youth across our state that they are not alone. This bill is a compassionate, necessary step forward. It affirms the rights and identities of young people, strengthens protections for families, and ensures that our schools and institutions are places where respect is not optional, but foundational. I urge you to pass it. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to all Colorado kids.
Alyson Parker Against themselves	I am a citizen of this beautiful state of Colorado and am grateful to be an American. I am a person of faith, a follower of Jesus Christ. I am convinced that the Bible is truth and I fear and love God. That being said, if I were of no religious conviction, I would still not be for this bill. Ultimately making it illegal for anyone not to refer to someone by their biological sex and therefore their true gender as assigned by birth is a violation of my rights as a citizen. It grieves me further that parents would lose their right to counsel and protect their children from a known propagated ideology that is not based on scientific fact, that encourages hormone therapy that will destroy their child’s body and cannot change their sex anyway, without the chance for parents to find true counseling for their child’s actual need: discovery and acceptance of their true identity. It’s a known fact, via many trials and parent testimonies, that teachers and or school counselors have been grooming children to transgender thinking and telling them not to tell their parents; leading them to deceive their parents. Some children, obviously still needing protection of their parents, have a whole other life and name at school and go home as themselves so their parents won’t know. This bill is an example of State overreach. It is up to the parents to decide what is best for their children whether the State likes it or not. Considering that a person born a man cannot biologically ever become a woman, and vice versa, I do not consider it abuse, neglect, or otherwise insidiously harmful for parents to tell their children the TRUTH. Or for any other citizen of this country to tell any other person in this country, transgender or not, what the truth is. As a person of faith, it is a violation of my freedom of speech and my religious freedoms to be silenced or punished for the sharing of my truth and convictions in order to place higher the truth and convictions of another. State overreach is not the appropriate solution for transgender protections. Thank you for your time and may God help you as you decide on this important bill.
Melanie Erdmann Against	A Mother’s Journey Through Unexpected News

themselves	Hello, I'm a mother of two sons—both born male. A few years ago, when my eldest was 15, he shared with us that he identified as female. My husband and I were completely blindsided. This was something we had never imagined or prepared for. I want to be clear that I will refer to my child using he/him pronouns in this message—not out of disrespect, but out of deep concern. I am his mother, and I love him with all my heart—just as I always have. This journey began in 2016. Like many families, we had rules around technology. One of them was that phones stayed in our room overnight. From the moment they got their phones, we explained we would be monitoring them—not to spy, but to protect them. We wanted to shield them from age-inappropriate content and help them develop healthy boundaries. One morning, I came across explicit messages on my son's phone sent to someone we didn't know. My husband and I were alarmed. As we've always done in tough moments, we invited him on a walk to talk things through. It was during that walk that our son shared he felt like two people living in one body. He admitted the messages were inappropriate and promised to stop. We knew he needed help, so we quickly found a therapist. After only three sessions, the therapist referred us to the TRUE Center, where we were introduced to the idea of cross-sex hormone therapy. At just 16 years old, our son was ready to begin the process. We were shocked. How could someone so young, whose brain is still developing, be allowed to make irreversible medical decisions? At 16, he couldn't vote, buy alcohol, rent a hotel room, or get a tattoo. Yet here we were—presented with life-altering options, with long-term effects we didn't fully understand. This made me reflect on my own teenage years. As a young teen, I struggled deeply with my self-image. I was convinced I was too fat and began skipping meals. Over time, I became anorexic, a battle that followed me into my early 20s. My parents were desperate to help. They tried talking to me, reasoning with me—and finally gave me an ultimatum: start eating and gaining weight, or they would no longer fund my college education. They loved me fiercely, and they knew I was trapped in distorted thinking. Looking back, I thank them for stepping in when I couldn't see clearly.

	So I ask—how is this different from young people today who are struggling with body image and identity? Can you imagine if, during my lowest point, a doctor had prescribed me diet pills? That would have been unthinkable. In conclusion, I urge you: please reconsider this bill. Let parents be parents. Give families the space to walk with their children through hard questions and complex emotions. No one loves or knows their child better than their parents.
Jake Armstrong For himself	To the Members of the Colorado State Legislature: I write to you as both a citizen and a biologist at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. In my professional and personal life, I am fortunate to know and work alongside people of many different backgrounds, life experiences, and gender identities. I'm writing today in strong support of this bill because it reflects the basic decency and dignity that every child deserves — to be seen, supported, and respected for who they are. In my community, I have watched the difference it makes when trans kids (and kids of all gender identities!) know that there are adults in their lives who will stand up for them. The impact is profound. It is the difference between fear and safety, isolation and belonging, silence and possibility. As Mr. Rogers once said, "Everyone longs to be loved — and the greatest thing we can do is to let people know that they are loved and capable of loving." That's what this bill does. It sends the message to trans youth across our state that they are not alone. This bill is a compassionate, necessary step forward. It affirms the rights and identities of young people, strengthens protections for families, and ensures that our schools and institutions are places where respect is not optional, but foundational. I urge you to pass it. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to all Colorado kids.
Deanna Rude Against himself	Dear Representatives and Senators, My name is Deanna Rude and I am writing to you requesting that you consider not supporting this bill as it is harmful to others, especially children, the upcoming generation, and our country. Please listen to your own conscience about this bill. It does not help children who are confused about their gender, but hurts them. Parents are responsible to nurture and care for their children and should not be criminalized for helping a child to understand that they were born as a male or female and given their name out of love for them. Children need guidance by their parents. If they are left to themselves without any guidance, they will have a hard time. Please consider the children's welfare and do not pass this bill.

	Sincerely, Deanna Rude
Jake Armstrong For himself	I want to write in support of this bill, because the last thing we need right now is to allow Trump to continue to reduce our rights and prevent people, no matter who, from living their lives. Colorado should stand as a safe haven for those suffering in other states. I already know people who have left states like Texas to move to Colorado specifically because they had trans children, and wanted to ensure a better life for them. Supporting civil rights for all is a critical component of our democracy, and given the times, we must stand firm in defending those rights and moving them forward whenever possible. Thank you.
Sheryl Schaller Against himself	I ask that all of you vote no on HB25-1312. While the bill proposes to care for children and especially those who are transgender and seek gender affirming care, the bill in practice would cause much harm to children and families in Colorado. As leaders in our community you are called to protect the vulnerable within our community. Children are among those vulnerable and it is your duty to protect them with laws that promote their flourishing and the flourishing of our community. This bill would open the door for children, MINORS who CANNOT even buy tobacco, marijuana, vape, or alcohol in our state to undergo major surgeries that would forever change their bodies. Along with these surgeries they would receive countless hormones and other drugs that we do not yet know the long term side effects of. A transgender child and individual who has undergone these surgeries and received these hormones (even apart from the long term health risks and risks of major surgery) find that they do not belong anywhere. They do not belong with biological men nor biological women and they do not belong within the homosexual and binary communities. They belong no where and in the end are more lonely and isolated than they were prior to these so called "gender affirming care" policies. Furthermore, this law seeks to undermine our first amendment rights. Our country and especially our state were founded on the ideal of freedom -the freedom for everyone regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, or economic background to pursue life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This means that people can pursue it in the way that they deem best for themselves and their family. Having laws that coerce families, minors, teachers and communities into talking and acting in a certain way is not freedom. It is government overreach and power grabbing. This is the opposite of what has made America a great nation and unique from all others in the world. Being able to have different ideas and pursue life, liberty and happiness in different ways is part of what continues to make us a great nation. It improves and deepens our culture richness and diversity and adds to our strength. Preventing us from practicing the first amendment rights will not strengthen us, will not bring peace and will in the end destroy the rights of all.

	Please vote no on HB25-1312 and continue to help make Colorado a wonderful state. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important bill.
Jon McGee Against themselves	This bill is an attack on the sovereignty of parental rights and authority over their own children.
Ruslan Yevdokimov Against themselves	I am against this bill! I believe that parents are given the right to take care of their children and help them make their choices. It is wise to not let this bill pass, because this will take rights away from parents!!!
Kirill Yevdokimov Against themselves	I oppose this bill because it further deviates from the true and natural design of humanity. As a believer in basic science, it is impossible to undo the inherent XX or XY chromosomes in every single cell in one's body, making the transition literally Impossible from one gender to the other. As a Christian, I uphold the natural order that the almighty God has set in course, including the differences between the sexes, as well as the responsibility and authority of parents to discipline and raise one's children. I oppose this bill, please oppose it as well. May the Lord bless you and open your eyes to the truth.
Maggie Gutberlet For themselves	Please support the bill to protect the rights of transgender people, especially our transgender youth. I am a middle school teacher who runs the LGBTQ club for my school. My students in the club are delightful, silly, intelligent, brave, loving and fiercely protective of each other (and me!) They do so well at my school because we push to protect them, call them by their chosen names, don't have a dress code, and use their preferred pronouns. By codifying these into law, all students of Colorado can feel as safe and as seen as the students at my school. Gendered dress codes are antiquated and do nothing for learning outcomes. Using students incorrect pronouns and names DO affect learning outcomes negatively. LGBTQ students suffer when the adults in their lives do not protect them, and this law means we HAVE TO.

	Please, do what we elected you to do—stand up for our most vulnerable members of our community, Thank you.
Oleg Yevdokimov Against themselves	I am opposed to this bill!
George Hamilton Against themselves	April 29, 2025 Colorado State Senate Judiciary Committee Attention: Julie Gonzales, chair Mike Weisman, Vice Chair John Carlson, committee member Dylan Roberts, committee member Lindsey Daugherty, committee member Matt Ball, committee member Lisa, Frizell, committee member RE: HB25-1312 bill (Kelly Loving Act) Dear Senate Judiciary Members, I am writing today to ask that you Vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill as written attack two of America's most fundamental rights: free speech and parental authority. CO HB25-1312, recently passed by the Colorado House, would: 1. Deny Parental rights This bill undermines parental authority by threatening to revoke the custody of parents who call a child by their birth name and pronoun that matches their sex. It also prohibits Colorado courts from enforcing laws that other states might use to protect children from harmful "gender transitions" This provision disregards the rights of parents to make medical decisions based on their child's best interest and the sovereignty of other states. 2. Violate Free Speech. This bill defines "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as discriminatory acts under the Colorado ANTI-Discrimination Act. This sets a

	dangerous precedent by criminalizing speech and forcing individuals to use language that may conflict with their beliefs. 3. Harm Vulnerable Children. Up to 98% of children, who struggle with body dysphoria, grow to accept their biological sex by adulthood. So-called "gender affirming care results in castration, sterilization, and life long sexual dysfunction. After so-called "sex assignment surgery" boys and girls are nearly 20 more times likely to die from suicide than the general population. Children who "transition" socially and particularly those who begin puberty blockers usually go on to be medicalized for life. Taking children from fit and loving families over fraudulent allegations of abuse puts them at greater risk. The children can be manipulated and harmed by those pretending to help. 4. Mandate Schools prioritize indoctrination over education. This bill mandates schools change their dress codes and naming policies, requiring them to be inclusive of all "chosen names" and gender expression-for any reason whatsoever. These mandates impose additional burdens on educators and administrators, asking them to focus on promoting indoctrination over education. The only time a state should remove a child is for actual abuse, not to impose a destructive ideology. The Truth is simple. It is never abuse to raise a girl as a girl or a boy as a boy! I ask again that the Senate Judiciary Committee "VOTE NO on HB25-1312" It is not in the State's interest in forcing this type of legislation on the state's citizens and children. Respectfully yours, George J. Hamilton 3427 East Davies Avenue Centennial, Colorado 80122-2024 (303) 809-0536 Email: georgehamilton01@comcast.net

Garth Hill Against himself	I urge you to oppose HB25-1312. Suggesting that misgendering a child or "deadnaming" them is a form of coercive control and should be considered as a factor in child custody / parental time decisions is just plain wrong. As a parent of a child experiencing gender dysphoria, I speak from direct experience. The State is adopting a radical agenda pushed by activists, and this needs to stop. It is not the State's place to determine these decisions for families, and radical agendas should not be codified into law.
Geneva Kachman Against himself	I am a lifelong Democrat and I oppose this bill. 1. Any parent may reasonably and lovingly question the administration of puberty blockers, surgery and/or cross-sex hormones for their minor child. Dr. Marci Bowers, a pelvic and gynecologic surgeon, as well as past president of WPATH, the leading trans advisory group for gender-affirming care, herself stated that if a minor were to receive puberty blockers before Tanner stage 2, that minor would be infertile as well as NEVER experience orgasm. Any parent could reasonably and lovingly question whether a less drastic option, such as a wait-and-see approach combined with therapy, would be best for their child. 2. Teachers and other school staff, as well as students themselves, should not be compelled to pretend belief in a quasi-religious concept like "gender identity." Of course, accept a student's choice of name, clothing and hairstyle (if within the dress code that other students must adhere to), but the denial of the reality and immutability of biological sex is not something others should be forced into. SCOTUS has already decided creationism and intelligent design are not to be taught in public schools, because they run counter to the theory of evolution, which IS settled science. Please see: https://ncse.ngo/ten-major-court-cases-about-evolution-and-creationism . It's not just on religious grounds, against "sexual indoctrination," that many (if not most people) object to the tenets of transgender theory being taught in schools; it's

	on the impossibility of squaring "gender identity" with the theory of evolution, which rests on a sex binary in sexually-reproducing species on planet Earth. 3. The collection and dissemination of accurate data is one of the basic functions of government, and we all deserve that this be done with scrupulous care, as policymaking is only as good as the data underlying it. We also deserve accurate information be presented in the media, and yes -- the sex of individuals is often a very important piece of information - for missing persons, crime reports, and so on. Sex is real, and when it comes to crime statistics, there is a profound difference between female versus male rates of offending. We deserve to have honest reporting as to the SEX of offenders, regardless of the name they choose for themselves. Thank you for thinking carefully about this issue, and I urge a NO vote on this bill.
Jen Livsey Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion and fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Ashlyn Shilling For	This bill is fundamental to my community and many people in my life. I have transgender/non-binary people in my family, friends, as coworker, and as classmates. My sibling is non-binary and lives a much more thriving life and is full of more peace than when they were younger and felt unsafe to freely express their identity. I have

themselves	never seen them happier than they are now outwardly with a chosen name, and they/them pronouns. Every American, including children, has the right to freely express themselves as they choose so long as it does not bring physical or mental harm to those around them, and being transgender does nothing of the sort. Dress codes that are gender based are also rather harmful, and not only to trans youth. Growing up as a cisgender woman, I also felt turmoil from the dress code that my schools enforced. I was not allowed to wear any sort of tank tops, or dresses/skirts/shorts above the knee. However the boys were allowed to wear tank tops, and plenty of them would wear shorts above knee height. They were never told to change which taught many of us woman at a young age that something was wrong with our bodies. Trans students simply want to wear clothes they are comfortable in and make them feel seen for who they are, and it should not be something that is used against them to hinder their education. It also so important to protect our youth and their expression, and any parent that does not allow their children to express and learn about themselves in both identity and appearance, is a harmful one. A parent/[person that does not allow and/or purposefully chooses to disregard this should be considered discriminatory. The first 20-30 years of your life involves so much learning but especially from 0-18 years old. Trying to understand yourself and figure out how you like to be seen and referred to is something everyone does including Cisgendered people. Why choose to cut it at transgender people? Those that do not want to allow this are often found to be uncomfortable by the idea and their discomfort does not rise above another human being, and Americans, right to choose.
Suzanne Saunders Against themselves	I am STRONGLY against this bill. Just as transgender people want to exercise their right in using a new name and pronouns, parents must continue to have their right to call their children by their given names and gender at birth. Families are the bedrock of our society. Parents must maintain their rights to free speech, to raise their children in the manner they view best. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion. I am grateful for your time.
Casey Moran Against themselves	As a mother and a Christian, it is disturbing to witness the lack of common sense and regard for parents in the state of Colorado. The government does not own our children, God does. One day we will all answer to Him and be held accountable, either through the blood of Jesus or by eternal separation from the Creator. I care about each one of you and hope that you will reject HB 25-1312 and care for Colorado parents and their children. They are a blessing from God, not objects for the government to manipulate and corrupt. Parents have a constitutional right to bring up their children and decide their care, education, and welfare. Please protect Colorado families and reject this bill! Thank you for your time.
Jennice Casady	Good Day Senators of Colorado,

Against themselves	My name is Jennice Casady and represent many concerned parents of Colorado, and we are against House Bill 25-1312. When you became a Senator you took an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Proposed bill HB25-1312 is an unconstitutional bill that breaks the 1st Amendment because it stomps on the rights of a parent to "Speak" truth to their child, and protect their child from being physically harmed by transgender dismemberment surgery and hormone blockers, and takes away the right of a parent to call their child by their birth name and biological sex. This bill also breaks the 1st Amendment because the transgenderism-ideology-theory wants people to believe that people can be born in the wrong body, and as a Christian I know that God does not make mistakes, a person is never born in the wrong body. The Senate can't approve a bill that punishes parents, children, teachers, and business' because they disagree with the transgenderism-ideology-theory. As a Christian it is a SIN to LIE, and everyone knows that no one can ever truly be a different gender, therefore I will not lie about a person's gender. A person has to take hormones and drugs for rest of their life that are known to cause significant harmful side effects including shortening ones life span in order to fake a different gender. The UK government in December of 2024 banned the prescription of puberty blockers for children younger than 18 because of the harm it has caused to children, and because medical experts said it harms children. No bill should be used as a judicial weapon to push an ideological theory on people, and steal their Constitutional right to speak truth, and live according to their beliefs not the transgender theory beliefs. There are many Detransitioners like Chloe Cole that wish they had been told the truth and had been protected from a LIE that destroyed their once healthy body. The science shows that the hormone blockers are doing damage to kid's bodies mentally and physically. As Senators of Colorado it is your duty to protect the Constitutional Rights of the Citizens of Colorado, and this proposed bill HB25-1312 breaks our Constitutional laws, therefore it is an unlawful bill that you must vote "No" to in order to keep your Congressional oath to the people of Colorado.
Angie Flynn	Dear Elected officials,

Against themselves	When my child was first born I knew when to feed him. I dressed him and wrapped him and held him and loved him. When my child was crying I knew how to comfort him. I held him and rocked him and kissed him and loved him. When my child was first crawling I knew how to watch him. I moved chairs and placed gates and closed doors and loved him. When my child was first walking I knew how to cheer him. I smiled big and reached far and shrieked loud and loved him. When my child was confused about my reasons I made him listen. I told him cars race by and helmets protect heads and seatbelts save lives and I loved him. When my child didn't want to do something I spoke wisdom. I told him hard work is honorable and positive attitudes make a difference and daily thankfulness is a blessing and I loved him. When my child thought he knew best I spoke from overflowing love. I told him no he can't go and no he can't have and no he can't stop and I loved him. When my child needed help I wanted to be there. I sat and listened and listened and guided and guided and protected and I loved him. I pray Oh Lord! Turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. I will never give up and never stop praying and always keep loving my child! Dear Senators, I thank you for reading my poem/testimony and beseech you to vote No on HB25-1312, Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals. The responsibility and duty of decision making for the child belongs to the parents not the state. Please keep parents in their position of authority to be the decision makers, providers, care givers, encouragers, helpers, protectors and warriors for their child. Sincerely, Angela Flynn Aurora, CO

	Mom to 3 growing kids
Kelsey Jack Against themselves	Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee, I am writing to express my firm and unequivocal opposition to HB 25-1312, also known as the Kelly Loving Act. This bill is a dangerous example of government overreach. It compels speech, criminalizes dissent, and places the heavy hand of the state into family life and personal beliefs. Labeling “misgendering” or “deadnaming” as coercive control is not about protection—it's about punishing disagreement. This is a direct violation of the First Amendment and sets a precedent that is incompatible with a free society. Furthermore, HB 25-1312 blatantly infringes upon religious liberty. Forcing parents, teachers, and citizens to comply with a specific ideological view of gender—regardless of personal faith—is an affront to core American principles. The bill also undermines parental authority in a way that should alarm everyone. Since when is it the government’s role to determine how a parent can talk to their own child? Where does this end? This is a runaway bill that will not stop with this language—it will grow in scope and power until dissent is no longer allowed, only submission. And finally, I must say this plainly: I find it stunning that this body seems so fixated on “supporting children” when it affirms confusion, but shows no interest in protecting life in the womb. That kind of selective compassion is not noble. It's repulsive. HB 25-1312 is not about care—it’s about control. Not about inclusion—but indoctrination. I respectfully urge you: vote NO on HB 25-1312.
Jacqueline Lemke Against themselves	Good Afternoon Judiciary Committee, My name is Jacqueline Lemke and I’m testifying against the threat of rights that bill HB25-1312 is posing against parents with children who are struggling with their self worth, their confidence and their self image, to a point they want to change everything about themselves. As a parent of two children, how have we come to this point in the justice system where it could potentially be considered child abuse if we don’t affirm a child’s worst fear of being unaccepted for who they are? What this bill is really stating here, is that if we have a child who hates themselves so much that who they were born as, must be changed and “deadnamed”, and mutilated and if we dont affirm that child’s fear, we’re considered abusive and accused of “coercive control”? This is not justice. This is lawlessness that we’re seeing in these papers. I have dedicated every single day of my life since the moment I found out about the existence of my precious son and daughter, in ensuring that they hear their mom say,

	that they are exactly who My sovereign God Almighty created him to be. That the Lord doesn't make any mistakes. My heart breaks for the children that haven't recognized this truth about themselves, that the same God who created the sun, the mountains and the sea, created them too. Perfectly planned. I'm here to testify that no matter what legislation legislates, and no matter what the world accepts, if it is anything short of "You are created in the image of God" it's wrong. And if you allow this bill to pass, to allow children being trafficked into our state to be mutilated, you are enacting an incredible gross misconduct of your power and authority and I just pray that Lord have mercy on your souls because these are innocent children we're talking about. I pray for you committee, because you have a huge responsibility to do right by the future generation of this nation. The fact this bill even landed on your table is sickening and I just pray that you open your eyes to the fact that judgement will come one day no matter the outcome of this bill and my God is in control. Please, for your sake, take that into consideration when you make your decision.
Carla Perez Against themselves	I am vehemently opposed to HB25-1312 which will criminalize parents for speaking truth to their children. This bill steals the rights of parents in the upbringing of their children and will cause long term harm to the children and families if the state removes children from homes based on this bill. This bill is abominable, unconscionable and unconstitutional. Save the families. Save the state and taxpayers from needless lawsuits. I urge all senators to vote NO on this bill.
Adam Debling Against themselves	Good morning, I am a practicing behavior analyst in the state of Colorado, urging you to vote no on HB 25-1312. This bill is unconstitutional compelled speech and a gross violation of parents' rights. In practice, this forces parents and others to use pseudoscientific terms, such as gender identity, rather than biological sex. Lying to children about reality is not only cruel, but makes it significantly more likely these children adopt the socially contagious identities. Indoctrinating children with these identities leads to puberty blockers, cross sex hormones, and genital mutilation resulting in sterilization. Children who cannot consent are being given non-evidence based procedures that a significant amount of European countries have walked back from and restricted. The long term results are even more health side effects, effectively making the child a lifelong medical patient. The overwhelming evidence suggests that almost all children desist from gender dysphoria by going through puberty. Teaching children that they are born in the wrong bodies and converting them into a stereotype of the opposite sex should be considered child abuse. Gender affirmation care is conversion therapy and the modern day lobotomy.

	HB 25-1312 undermines parental rights, scientific integrity, and the well-being of vulnerable children. I implore you to reject this bill and protect our children's future. Thank you for your consideration, Adam Debling
Michael Laden Against himself	Vote No unless you're transsexual freak
Peter Mojassamian Against himself	The purpose of this bill is to create and strengthen a government with absolute power to be able to control our society at the whims of the select few. These types of "pretend for good" laws while hiding a sinister agenda are in total violation of our Constitution of the United States, and such law makers should declare their hypocrisy and immediately resign from their office having violated their oath of upholding the Constitution of the United States. This law pretends to provide some rights of minors who are under the care and custody of their parents, while in fact it's purpose is to strip the rights of the parents and ultimately set up to destroy families, alienate children from parents and bring further damage and decay to the foundational unit society the family. Creating chaos in society is one of the ways to gain control. We are opposed to such a dictatorial government and its policies.
Jason Bertrand Against himself	AGAINST HB25-1312, will violate 1st amendment rights of Coloradans.
Anna Mojassamian Against himself	This bill is unconstitutional and I oppose it. As parents our rights are being stripped from us under the guise of doing favors to the minors while the real agenda is over the top government control.
Staci Brock Against	Thank you committee members for taking the time to hear from us or read our statements. I wanted to take a moment to share my thoughts on this bill. Parents are, and have only been since the beginning of time, the ones to make decisions for their

themselves	children. Parents take care of, provide and protect their young, we see this in nature as well. Children are not mature to make these kind of decisions, nor are they able to pay for them. Hence part why they do not drive yet, serve in the military or hold a job, to name a few things. While they may experience confusion, and all compassion and help are needed here, there are only 2 genders, science backs this up. So does nature, so does all of human existence. Surgery and chemicals cause harm, and are irreversible and kids are not able to make these decisions that affect their entire lives, nor is the business of government or teachers etc to claim to know they know better than a child's parent. I am sure you have access and have read all the medical reports and statistics that back this up. This bill requires not just parents but anyone to affectively lie to children about facts, no surgery or chemical will ever change their DNA. There are other ways to help, this is beyond radical and takes what belongs to parents away and criminalizes it. And I can not fathom living in a world where being a parent, protecting our kids is now a criminal activity. Thank you for your time and please vote NO on this bill.
Jeramie Sturdefant Against themselves	My name is Jeramie Sturdefant, I am a father of two. A 3 year old and a 1year old. My hope is that they are going to be too young for this to effect them when they become the age that they start finding out about all of the dumbest things in the history of mankind. Which is what this bill is. You are threatening to take away rights from parents if they don't decide to go along with something their child says? THEIR CHILD? The same child that can't vote, drive, drink, smoke, enlist, etc. because they are too young to make these choices. But because this is some sort of cool time that has swept the world, it's now more important than all other topics listed before? You can't possibly think this is ACTUALLY a good idea and not just something that is new and cool. Please, PLEASE think about these kids actual futures and not just what they are being told is important.
Carrie Bachofer Against themselves	Vote No on this ridiculous bill. How dare you try this over reach involving yourselves in the family unit. It is bad enough Bennett and Hickelopper voted against women having their own sports. They have lost women voters in Colorado. Neither one of them are Colorado Natives. None of you love Colorado and your voting records prove it. Stop destroying family values.
Pam Ausenhus Against themselves	I urge a "NO VOTE" on HB25-1312 House Bill 25-1312 includes provisions that would have significant and dangerous implications for parents and families. This bill would redefine "Coercive Control" in ways that endanger children and families. These measures would infringe upon all parents' constitutional rights to raise their children and make decisions regarding their care and upbringing without undue government interference. It strips the citizens of Colorado of their freedom of speech, and of exercising their core beliefs, which are guaranteed in both the Colorado Constitution and the United States Constitution. This bill is unconstitutional and unconscionable. It is an egregious affront on the rights and freedoms of the people of Colorado!

	This bill attempts to redefine core belief systems in ways that exert heinous controls on parents, business owners, educators, employers, employees and every other group and individual in our state. It is a harmful and dangerous precedent for our children and families. As a citizen of Colorado, I urge a "NO VOTE" and for this bill to be killed in committee, never to be seen again.
Angel Rodriguez Sturgill Against themselves	I do not agree with this bill at all. Every parent has the right to protect and teach their own children. This bill should not pass!!!!
Megan Crawford Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families.

	For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Kelly Perkins Against themselves	I am writing an opposition of HB25-1312. There is nothing "loving" about HB25-1312, the "Kelly Loving Act". Instead, the goal of this bill is to separate families and harm children. Today's children are under enormous pressure to conform and/or fit in, but there is no right way to be a boy or girl. My daughter was a tomboy. She climbed as many trees as she could find, and she fell out of several. She thought doing your hair and makeup was dumb. She searched high and low for snakes, amphibians and insects. She brought a bullfrog home one day just to observe it for a little while. She waded into a pond in our neighborhood to catch a turtle because she wanted to see it up close before directing him back to the water. She played sports. She didn't wear dresses. She didn't like children and certainly never wanted to have any. She thought boys were gross and stupid. By any measure of today's "gender ideology" fixation, my daughter would have been expected to declare herself as transgender, and there would have been legions of teachers, school, counselors, and Democrat politicians cheering her on. After all, she didn't like many of the things other girls did. My daughter is now 25. She loves being a woman. She can't wait to marry her boyfriend. She talks frequently about starting a family. She embraces her femininity. My husband and I never told our daughter what kind of girl to be - or not be - and we haven't told her what kind of woman to be. We didn't ask if she thought she was a boy or if she had been born in the wrong body. We didn't ask her who she was sexually attracted to. Our daughter was perfect then, and she is perfect today. But given Colorado Democrats adoration of "gender identity", our story could've had a much different ending. And now, HB25-1312 takes that same zeal for destruction and ratchets it up another notch. For families already going through the pain of divorce, Democrat politicians when a further punish them by forcing parents to "affirm" their child's confusion. HB25-1312 will also disproportionately hurt fathers in custody cases. HB25-1312 is very similar to California's Assembly Bill 957 of 2023, which was even too extreme for Governor Gavin Newsom design. Governor Newsom stated, "This

	legislation would require a court, when determining the best interests of a child in a child custody or visitation proceeding, to consider, among other comprehensive factors, a parent's affirmation of the child's gender identity or gender expression." He continued, "I urge caution when the Executive and Legislative branches of state government attempt to dictate - in prescriptive terms that single out one characteristic - legal standards for the Judicial branch to apply." HB25-1312 also disregards other factors, such as autism. In the wake of the Cass Review, the NHS will now be screening trans-identified children for autism. On December 1, 2020, the High Court of London ruled that children are unlikely to be able to give informed consent to undergo so-called "gender affirming care". And in a study from Singh, Bradley, and Zucker on gender identity and sexual orientation of pre-pubertal boys, 87.8% of boys saw their gender dysphoria desist. Additionally, by a mean age of 20 1/2 in what is the largest sample to date, 63.6% of boys in the study grew up to be gay. If the Colorado Senate votes to send HB25-1312 to Governor Polis's desk, I urge him to remember he is a governor for all Colorado ones, not just the liberal ones. In the words of detransitioner Luca Hein, "Affirmation does not equal love."
Dawn Kroeze Against themselves	Dear Senate Judiciary members, HB25-1312 flies in the face of the freedoms our country has been built upon and made strong because of. The family unit is the strongest building block a free nation has. This bill promises to fracture & destroy this family unit by government interference in Parental guidance of their own children. This a basic freedom that our country has prided itself on for centuries. Government interference is NOT about caring for these children. No, instead it is about government control of the people who elected you to your positions. A BETRAYL of your fellow American citizens! Please, vote NO on this hideous travesty aimed our American freedom and especially at Family. Respectfully, Dawn Kroeze
Terri Cedillo For themselves	Good afternoon, Members of the Committee, and thank you for your time to thoughtfully consider the fate of Colorado's trans youth. I would like to speak in support of my trans teen, Perci: When Perci was little, he loved to build things, mainly out of cardboard boxes. He made several contraptions, including what appeared to be a remake of a piece of Ghostbusters' equipment. Prior to having children, I was not in the business of keeping things around if they didn't serve some practical purpose, but each time I

	thought about putting one of those inventions into the recycle bin, it felt as if I were discarding my son's expressed ideas. So, I kept them...all of them, until Perci was old enough to decide if it was time to recycle them. (We took pictures to keep instead.) As a child, Perci was on the shy side, but that began to change as he tried different activities with different groups of children. By age 10, he homed in on a few loves: writing short stories with his tight-knit group of friends, speaking with accents, and drawing. It seemed that anything he would try would turn out amazing, including the haircut he gave me when he was 12 years old. (I got more compliments on that haircut than I've ever gotten in my whole life.) Now 16, Perci has become an exceptional artist. He can draw anything from abstract designs to realistic portraits. He still enjoys languages and is currently enrolled in ELA, Spanish and German at his high school, among some other honors and AP classes. Other favorite subjects: math and history. Still part of his tight-knit group of friends (most of whom are part of the LGBTQ+ community), Perci is a very thoughtful and respectful young man with big dreams, including having the chance to fully be himself as soon as he is legally allowed to make medical decisions about his body. Some people have asked me, "What do you think makes people like that?" This question is insensitive and implies that there is something wrong with trans people, but I try to understand that people who ask such a question lack awareness and may not be capable of imagining what life is like for others. Maybe their question is their first attempt at understanding life outside of the life they've always known. The answer is, I don't know why each of us is created to be the unique being we are. I also don't have an answer for why government agencies tend to take a hands-off approach in how parents discipline their children but feel the urge to speak out against parents who are trying to support their child's expression of their sense of self. Living in a society that harshly judges others' self-expression is difficult enough for trans youth. Not having the right to express one's gender identity would be

	inhumane. I, therefore, strongly urge the Committee to support the basic individual rights of our young people by voting YES on H.B.25-1312. Again, thank you for taking the time to read this e-mail before or during tomorrow's hearing. I know it will be a long day/night for you all and I am grateful that Colorado's representatives are dedicated to considering the perspective of all of the people they represent, including trans youth. With much respect, Terri Cedillo
Julia Sanford Against themselves	To the Judicial Committee Members, We are at a crossroad for being protected as a families in Colorado. You have been elected to uphold the constitution of our land as you represent us. HB-1312, does not represent families, children or provide protection for either. If a law causes a parent to face criminal charges, due to speaking a given name of their child then I say, you must step down as the lawmakers. Children are in an incredible learning phase of their life. Children having more authority than their parents isn't healthy or a goal of any of the families that I know. Growing up to be leaders, educators, etc, means they have gained an understanding of what is happening in their world. Growing into maturity is our goal for children. May this sink in as we choose to help and bless our children. We are citizens, parents and grandparents protecting our families. As a mother of 9 and grandmother of 13, I know there are a lot of ways to get children the help they need. HB- 1312 is not help, it is destructive to the children, the parents & Colorado. Thank you for listening, please shut this bill down before the Senate has to waste more precious time on it! May God bless those who honor Him. Thank you!
Molly Johnson Against themselves	Hello, my name is Molly and I am here to share my opposition to bill SB25-1312. This legislation prioritizes the agendas of people outside of the family over the sacred rights of parents to raise their children. The family is the foundation of our society, despite some people's strenuous attempts to convince people otherwise, and parents have a sacred, God-given role to raise their children to the light. They have freedom to do so in the ways they want to, so long as they are not abusing or severely neglecting them, in which case the government has good laws to intervene to protect the children.

	While God is my guide on all things and you've already heard plenty of people argue against this bill for spiritual reasons, for those of you who do not believe in the Lord Jesus I want to give you completely secular reasons to vote against this bill. You may believe that there is some sort of scientific consensus supporting the idea that people should choose their own gender and that doing so, even going so far as to surgically alter their bodies, is good for them. You are tragically wrong and also very gullible if you believe that. I'm a researcher by trade, so I know how to examine these scientific claims. Many articles, blog posts, speeches, and research reviews would have you believe that such a consensus exists, but they are based on fatal flaws such as choosing studies that are not valid or reliable due to small sample sizes and other problems, and/or using biased studies that seek to confirm desired hypotheses rather than using the real scientific method, which does not seek to validate the hypothesis but rather seeks to find support or denial of the hypothesis, and assumes it's denied or "null" unless very strong evidence supports it. Here are some of the studies you'd have to ignore to believe that identifying as transgender and especially having sex reassignment surgery is good for people. I don't have time to source them all, but I can provide all the details if anyone wants to ask: • Trans-identifying females report being sexually assaulted at higher rates than males • Genital surgery is associated with high rates of pelvic floor and sexual dysfunction • Multiple studies show that polycystic ovary syndrome which is a hormonal disorder characterized by higher male hormones in the body, is more prevalent in females seeking medical transition, which may be the cause of feelings of gender dysmorphia • Puberty blockers may have a negative effect on neuropsychological functioning • People who have undergone cross-sex surgery are 19 times more likely to die by suicide than the general population • Long-term testosterone use in females may induce early menopause leading to pelvic dysfunction, increased mortality risk, and many other challenges • Increased media coverage of transgender/gender diverse issues is associated with higher referral rates to pediatric gender clinic • Trans-questioning and IDed teens engage in significantly more screen time and problematic screen use than peers • There is a significant co-occurrence of gender dysphoria and autism spectrum diagnoses • Intestinal vaginoplasty in patients with stunted penile growth from puberty blockers can lead to bowel inflammation, excessive discharge, persistent foul odors, and fecal leakage

	• Trans-IDed people report higher levels of chronic pain and that increases among those receiving cross-sex hormones • Suppressing sex hormone in males is linked to increased risk of dementia • Treatments used to feminize transgender women result in altered brain structures • Long-term testosterone use can comprise fertility and negatively affect ovarian follicle health • Long term used of synthetic testosterone is associated with a decline in cognitive processing • One peer-reviewed studies of 100 detransitioners showed that $\frac{3}{4}$ did not report to clinicians that they had detransitioned, indicating that reports showing low rates of reversal are wrong • One study of detransitioners found that a large percentage of them believed in hindsight that they were suffering from internalized homophobia • One study of detransitioners found that $\frac{1}{2}$ believed they received inadequate care • Transmen ad 4-5xs more likely than females in general to suffer a heart attack • Young transgender people are at elevated risk of contracting HIV and other STDs • Medical transition reduces dating pool size and likelihood of marriage • Up to $\frac{1}{4}$ of transgender genital surgeries result in incontinence • 1 in 5 vaginoplasty surgeries lead to corrective surgery • Vaginoplasty can result in fistula, stenosis, necrosis, prolapse and even death • Genital surgeries reduce the capacity for orgasm in males and possibly in females • Chest binding has a significant impact on lung function • Tucking may affect fertility • Puberty blockers and cross sex hormones negatively impact bone health • Most young people questioning their gender are subject to some social influence that makes them feel that way • The # of transgender youth clinics increased 50x over 10 years • The profile of people seeking transition has shifted drastically, from overwhelmingly middle-aged males to predominantly adolescence females Are you sure that you are sure that all of this is a good idea for people??? Vote no on 1312 since this is by no way a clearcut issue.

	Hello, my name is Molly and I am here to share my opposition to bill SB25-1312. This legislation prioritizes the agendas of people outside of the family over the sacred rights of parents to raise their children. The family is the foundation of our society, despite some people's strenuous attempts to convince people otherwise, and parents have a sacred, God-given role to raise their children to the light. They have freedom to do so in the ways they want to, so long as they are not abusing or severely neglecting them, in which case the government has good laws to intervene to protect the children. While God is my guide on all things and you've already heard plenty of people argue against this bill for spiritual reasons, for those of you who do not believe in the Lord Jesus I want to give you completely secular reasons to vote against this bill. You may believe that there is some sort of scientific consensus supporting the idea that people should choose their own gender and that doing so, even going so far as to surgically alter their bodies, is good for them. You are tragically wrong and also very gullible if you believe that. I'm a researcher by trade, so I know how to examine these scientific claims. Many articles, blog posts, speeches, and research reviews would have you believe that such a consensus exists, but they are based on fatal flaws such as choosing studies that are not valid or reliable due to small sample sizes and other problems, and/or using biased studies that seek to confirm desired hypotheses rather than using the real scientific method, which does not seek to validate the hypothesis but rather seeks to find support or denial of the hypothesis, and assumes it's denied or "null" unless very strong evidence supports it. Here are some of the studies you'd have to ignore to believe that identifying as transgender and especially having sex reassignment surgery is good for people. I don't have time to source them all, but I can provide all the details if anyone wants to ask: • Trans-identifying females report being sexually assaulted at higher rates than males • Genital surgery is associated with high rates of pelvic floor and sexual dysfunction • Multiple studies show that polycystic ovary syndrome which is a hormonal disorder characterized by higher male hormones in the body, is more prevalent in females seeking medical transition, which may be the cause of feelings of gender dysmorphia • Puberty blockers may have a negative effect on neuropsychological functioning • People who have undergone cross-sex surgery are 19 times more likely to die by suicide than the general population • Long-term testosterone use in females may induce early menopause leading to pelvic dysfunction, increased mortality risk, and many other challenges • Increased media coverage of transgender/gender diverse issues is associated with higher referral rates to pediatric gender clinic

	• Trans-questioning and IDed teens engage in significantly more screen time and problematic screen use than peers • There is a significant co-occurrence of gender dysphoria and autism spectrum diagnoses • Intestinal vaginoplasty in patients with stunted penile growth from puberty blockers can lead to bowel inflammation, excessive discharge, persistent foul odors, and fecal leakage • Trans-IDed people report higher levels of chronic pain and that increases among those receiving cross-sex hormones • Suppressing sex hormone in males is linked to increased risk of dementia • Treatments used to feminize transgender women result in altered brain structures • Long-term testosterone use can comprise fertility and negatively affect ovarian follicle health • Long term used of synthetic testosterone is associated with a decline in cognitive processing • One peer-reviewed studies of 100 detransitioners showed that $\frac{3}{4}$ did not report to clinicians that they had detransitioned, indicating that reports showing low rates of reversal are wrong • One study of detransitioners found that a large percentage of them believed in hindsight that they were suffering from internalized homophobia • One study of detransitioners found that $\frac{1}{2}$ believed they received inadequate care • Transmen are 4-5x more likely than females in general to suffer a heart attack • Young transgender people are at elevated risk of contracting HIV and other STDs • Medical transition reduces dating pool size and likelihood of marriage • Up to $\frac{1}{4}$ of transgender genital surgeries result in incontinence • 1 in 5 vaginoplasty surgeries lead to corrective surgery • Vaginoplasty can result in fistula, stenosis, necrosis, prolapse and even death • Genital surgeries reduce the capacity for orgasm in males and possibly in females • Chest binding has a significant impact on lung function • Tucking may affect fertility • Puberty blockers and cross sex hormones negatively impact bone health • Most young people questioning their gender are subject to some social influence that makes them feel that way

	• The # of transgender youth clinics increased 50x over 10 years • The profile of people seeking transition has shifted drastically, from overwhelmingly middle-aged males to predominantly adolescence females Are you sure that you are sure that all of this is a good idea for people??? Vote no on 1312 since this is by no way a clearcut issue.
Yekaterina Gorelova Against herself	Good afternoon. My name is Yekaterina Gorelova and I am a registered nurse. I am also a follower of Jesus Christ, and I am here to speak in respectful opposition to HB25-1312. From a Biblical perspective, I believe each person is created by God—intentionally male or female—as declared in Genesis 1:27. God’s design is not to be altered by feelings or social trends. This bill would compel individuals and institutions to use language that denies these foundational truths, VIOLATING freedom of conscience and religious liberty. As a nurse, I am deeply concerned. Gender dysphoria is still classified as a mental disorder in the DSM-5, the standard manual used by mental health professionals. It is defined as significant distress or impairment related to a conflict between one’s biological sex and perceived gender. In all other areas of healthcare, when a patient is confused about their identity or reality, we do not affirm the confusion. If a patient believes they are someone they are not, we do not enable that belief; we compassionately assess, counsel, and care for them with the goal of healing and mental clarity. To legislate affirmation of gender confusion forces healthcare workers to act against both our medical ethics and our clinical judgment. This bill also places coercive control into law by punishing parents and professionals who do not affirm gender transitions. It criminalizes speech and undermines the relationship between providers, patients, and families—especially when children are involved. Please, for the sake of medical integrity, parental rights, freedom of conscience, and Biblical truth, I ask you to VOTE NO on HB25-1312. Thank you.
Jane Gleason Against herself	I respectfully oppose HB25-1312, as I believe it represents an overreach of governmental authority and imposes burdensome regulations that may have unintended consequences for families, small businesses, and local communities. Legislation of this scope requires greater transparency, public input, and careful consideration of its long-term impacts. I urge lawmakers to prioritize policies that support individual rights, economic freedom, and support parental authority, rather than expanding state control in ways that risk undermining these fundamental

	values. Specifically, this bill will undermine parental rights, circumvent child protection laws, impose gender ideology in schools, and attack free speech and religious liberty.
Lisa Maclean Against themselves	I'm requesting you vote AGAINST HB25-1312. I'm very concerned about the implications of this bill on our families and are children. Please do NOT support this legislation. Thank you.
Barbara Klaseen Against themselves	VOTE NO ON HB25-1312 THESE CHILDREN ARE MENTALLY ILL AND THE ROOT CAUSE NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED AND WE NEED TO STOP ENABLING THIS BEHAVIOR. IN ORDER TO HELP THESE CHILDREN TO BECOME A HEALTHY WELL FUNCTIONING PART OF OUR SOCIETY.
Stacy Wiseman Against themselves	"I respectfully oppose HB25-1312, as I believe it represents an overreach of governmental authority and imposes burdensome regulations that may have unintended consequences for families, small businesses, and local communities. Legislation of this scope requires greater transparency, public input, and careful consideration of its long-term impacts. I urge lawmakers to prioritize policies that support individual rights, economic freedom, and support parental authority, rather than expanding state control in ways that risk undermining these fundamental values. Specifically, this bill will undermine parental rights, circumvent child protection laws, impose gender ideology in schools, and attack free speech and religious liberty."
Sharon Stockton Against themselves	I am writing to ask that you oppose HB1312, HB1309, and SB183. These bills represent an huge overreach by the state into matters that belong to parents and families. By introducing government-mandated ideology into school policy, and limiting the ability of parents to be informed and involved, these bills do more harm than good. Families deserve the right to raise their children according to their values and faith. I urge you to stand up for parental rights and vote NO on these bills. With concern, Sharon Stockton
Robert Rosanbalm Against themselves	I stand on the side of sanity, common sense, and the powerful truth of Gods Word. HB25-1312 takes matters way too far! It infringes on the rights of parents to raise their children according to their faith and conscience.
Charity Timmens	I am writing today in opposition of HB25- 1312. This bill is dangerous and cannot be allowed to pass. This bill takes away parents' rights to raise their children how they

Against themselves	see fit. It takes away legal custody and takes away a parent right to choose what is best for their child. This bill does not address the root cause of the issue. We need to be focusing on mental health and not taking away parents' rights. We need to be focusing on what the actual problem is, I am so disgusted by what this bill is supposed to do. I am disgusted that any sane person would vote in favor of this bill. I am disappointed in our "elected" officials that are supposed to protect our rights and not take them away. This is a gross violation of our constitutional rights and should be shut down immediately.
Jeremy Kron Against themselves	My name is Jeremy Kron and I am representing myself as a Christian, a Coloradan, a parent and a neighbor. What you are going to hear in the testimony in favor of HB25-1312: - Emotional blackmail - Self-harm threats - Idealistic platitudes about parenting from people who have never raised children (for example, "If you cared about your kid, you would listen to them and believe them.") - Straw man attacks imagining what the good people and good parents who oppose this bill believe What you won't hear in the HB25-1312 testimony: - Evidence that humans can be born in the "wrong body" - Evidence that children can know if, or understand that they are in a "wrong" or "right" body, and that they are capable of making an informed decision to consent to treatment from a third party regarding this invented condition w/o the consult of their legal parental guardians - Empathy and compassion from those who support this bill for the people who have de-transitioned or have been manipulated and coerced into these irreversible, self-destructive decisions at a young and impressionable age - decisions they've grown to regret. The supporters of this legislation don't want to acknowledge the testimony of de-transitioners or have an honest discussion about their experiences and the circumstances that influenced them into undertaking a lifetime of suffering that was, and continues to be, deceptively packaged as "care".

	What follows are the 3 things this legislation achieves: 1. Confusion: The bill aims to confuse children about not only their gender, but also their own name, their parent's authority and proper role in their lives and whose guidance and instruction they should trust primarily. 2. Indoctrination: The bill enables radical gender ideologists to impose and impress their views upon children while intentionally restricting measures of resistance, recourse or rebuttal from the child's own parents. 3. Apprehension: The bill strips the rights of parents to act in their own child's best interest by intimidating them into silence and tacit acceptance of radical gender ideology, making parents fear the seizure of their child(ren) for simply calling their child by the name they chose for them or for acknowledging their biological sex. This bill is vile, wicked, perverse and depraved. It legally compels lying to your children and lying to your community. Please, I urge you to understand the moment, to be courageous, and to make the moral choice to vote NO. Thank you.
Elisabeth Rosanbalm Against themselves	I'm against HB25-1312 because it infringes on the rights of parents to raise their children according to their faith and conscience
Everett Stockton Against themselves	Please vote NO on HB1312, HB1309, and SB183. As a Coloradan who values freedom and family, I am appalled by the direction these bills take. They open the door to compelled beliefs, restrict honest conversations, and limit a parent's right to know what is happening in their child's education or medical care. Colorado and its representatives should be encouraging collaboration between schools, families, and communities— not replacing parents with policies. Please stand with families and say NO to these bills. Sincerely, Everett Stockton
Lily Cothren For	I have a family member who is a trans woman, who I will refer to as "her" moving forward.

themselves	Unfortunately, I come from a family where most of my family members are transphobic. When they're not outwardly cruel about her, proclaiming they'll never use her chosen name, they're imploring her to reconsider her life and to "go back before it's too late." I cannot express how angry I am that — over and over — I have to fight to explain that she is finally living a life authentic to herself. She is happy now. Her eyes sparkle, and her mannerisms are more animated. LIFE just seems to bubble out of her. Her blossoming into someone shiny and pretty and TRUE to herself is what makes the transphobic comments and behaviors all the more infuriating. How dare anyone tell her what's true to her, let alone ask her to lock herself in a depressive closet again? I am SICK and TIRED of having to always battle bigotry and hatred in my own family. But, I'll keep defending my trans family because it's the right thing to do. Senators of Colorado, please show me that you'll also fight for our trans family. My transphobic family members don't understand how harmful it is to deadname and misgender someone, but I really hope you do. Vote for basic decency and dignity. Vote for compassion and humanity. Vote for the right thing to do. Please, please, please protect my trans family.
Taylor Watkins For themselves	Hello! I wanted to testify for HB-1312 also known as the Kelly Loving Act. As a part of the LGBTQ community and survivor of the club Q shooting this bill needs to be passed. There's so much hate in this state let's stop hating each other and start fighting and supporting one another! I urge you to vote for this bill as it could make or break this state for the LGBTQ+ community. Let's be a safe space.
Hunter Biles Against themselves	The whole purpose of childhood is to grow up and learn from your parents and the experience around you. You're agreeing to take a child away from a parent to miss out on a truthful and beautiful childhood just because they decided to be a "different gender". We're creating an unnecessary problem that hasn't even been considered a thing until modern days. Child has no idea what a "gender" is until someone tells them. They only want to become something they're not because they were fed that information by everyone else. As a child myself, being a biological male, born with a penis, a penis that shows "I'm a male". I never questioned anything about my "sexuality" or "gender, because knowing I was a male and not feeding into what

	everyone tries to make me, I was at peace with who I truly am. I had good friends, good education, a loving and caring family, no desire to "search my identity through sexuality". The moment you bring sexuality into a child's life, you make them question all about their life until they spiral down a road of confusion and being lost. A child should not be roped into this, and if you want them to "search their identity" wait until they're a legal adult at the age of 18, when they can legally make their own independent decisions, like it has been for the longest time, with no issues.
Amber Strickler Against themselves	Dear Senators and Governor Polis, I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you—do not destroy freedom in Colorado! This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday, silencing the voices of concerned Coloradans and cutting off critical debate. That alone should raise alarms about the process. Even more concerning is that this bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children. Parents—not the government—know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are best equipped to make decisions about their children's well-being. This bill tramples constitutional rights and turns loving parents into criminals simply for protecting their children. Parents are not criminals by just being a loving parent. This bill doesn't just target parents—it threatens every Colorado school, business, and public institution by forcing them to comply with government-mandated speech and ideology. Under HB25-1312, using a child's given name or acknowledging biological sex could trigger lawsuits, loss of custody, or civil penalties. Schools would be forced to hide gender identity changes from parents. Businesses—including faith-based organizations—would be compelled to affirm ideas they do not believe, or face legal action. This is not protection—it is coercion. HB25-1312's vague, broad language will create fear, confusion, and the tragic destruction of families. It will chill free speech, force ideological compliance, and pit the state against its own citizens. Colorado citizens should never fear government retaliation for speaking biological truth or standing by their convictions. For the sake of our families, our schools, our businesses, and the future of Colorado, I respectfully urge you: stand for parental rights, protect freedom, and vote NO on HB25-1312.

Mike O'Shaughnessy Against themselves	I am encouraging you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This was a bill rushed thru to avoid opposition by normal people who have raised families and know the difference between normal and crazy. This bill is a massive overreach my out of touch government employees. This will create dysfunctional families, encourage "grooming" by bad actors and break up families who have troubled children. Standup for what is right, vote no on this terrible bill.
Marty Churchfield Against themselves	Chair and Senate Judiciary Committee Members- I urge you to VOTE NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House with limited debate, raising serious concerns about transparency and due process. At its core, HB25-1312 represents an overreach into parental rights—parents, not the government, should make critical decisions about their children's medical care. The bill's vague language around "coercive control," including terms like "deadnaming" and "misgendering," threatens free speech and could chill open dialogue on complex issues. HB25-1312 sets a dangerous precedent for state intrusion into family life and individual freedoms. Please protect parental rights and free expression by OPPOSING this bill. Thank you, Marty Churchfield Senate District 26
Kelsea Souders For themselves	My name is Kelsea Souders. I live in Boulder, CO, and I'm writing to express my support for HB25-1312. All transgender people, regardless of age, deserve respect and the freedom to present themselves as they choose. Sadly, we live in a time when attacks on trans people are widespread, making it essential to protect the most vulnerable from discrimination and hate. Transgender youth in Colorado deserve to live peacefully, without being targeted by adults for simply existing. Research shows that affirming transgender identities improves mental health outcomes and reduces suicidality in both teenagers and adults. This bill is a step toward ensuring trans children and teens are safe and supported at school and at home. A child choosing to go by "Sam" instead of "Samantha," or dressing in ways that defy gender norms, is not a threat. If it's a phase, they will grow out of it, but they still deserve respect and protection while they explore who they are. Sadly, not all adults

	offer that respect, so it's up to the government to provide safeguards against harassment and discrimination. I support this bill because I don't want to live in a world where children would rather die than be forced to deny who they are. I urge the senators to support HB25-1312. Thank you for your time.
Jacqueline Schutt For themselves	Please do everything to make Colorado a safe place for all citizens. This treatment is life saving for transgender individuals, saved my life and is the only reason I am alive today. We need strong leadership to stand for what is right in Colorado and not let bigotry win. Don't let some of the most vulnerable in our community be a scapegoat to appease that hate.
Melissa Newman Against themselves	Please- this takes liberty and pursuit of happiness beyond logical boundaries. Parental rights should not be determined by beliefs on gender affirming and sexual preference, or made up pronouns. People can choose how they "identify " but don't have the right (nor should they) to force their opinions and pronouns on others. Deadnaming is yet another made up word to try to force others to bend to their will. Please don't do this - trying to force others to do your bidding.
Ricky Scadden Against themselves	I strongly appose this bill as it infringes on my religious rights. The bill forces individuals to lie by calling someone by their preferred gender rather than calling them by the truth of who they are. It also infringes on my freedom of speech. The entire idea of pronouns are demonic to the core, rather than creating identity in an individual it takes away from their true identity and makes them more confused. Teachers in a school who also misgender should not be subject to this same harassment. This is a harassment on law abiding citizens brought on by very small percentage individuals. The courts have no right to infringe on parenting techniques inside the home that involve instilling true identity into their children regardless of how the child feels. Children are being influenced by reckless adults who are confusing them more by telling them these lies about gender. Allowing your child to choose their own gender is a form of child abuse as it's up to the parent to reinforce their true gender and identity given to them by God in the womb.
Rick Miles Against themselves	Dear Senators and Governor Polis, I am Writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you—do not destroy freedom in Colorado! This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday, silencing the voices of concerned Coloradans and cutting off critical debate. That alone should raise alarms about the process. Even more concerning is that this bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children. Parents—not the

	government—know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are best equipped to make decisions about their children’s well-being. This bill tramples constitutional rights and turns loving parents into criminals simply for protecting their children. We are not criminals. We are parents. This bill doesn’t just target parents—it threatens every Colorado school, business, and public institution by forcing them to comply with government-mandated speech and ideology. Under HB25-1312, using a child’s given name or acknowledging biological sex could trigger lawsuits, loss of custody, or civil penalties. Schools would be forced to hide gender identity changes from parents. Businesses—including faith-based organizations—would be compelled to affirm ideas they do not believe, or face legal action. This is not protection—it is coercion. HB25-1312’s vague, broad language will create fear, confusion, and the tragic destruction of families. It will chill free speech, force ideological compliance, and pit the state against its own citizens. Colorado citizens should never fear government retaliation for speaking biological truth or standing by their convictions. For the sake of our families, our schools, our businesses, and the future of Colorado, I respectfully urge you: stand for parental rights, protect freedom, and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Brent Pilgrim Against themselves	I strongly oppose House Bill 25-1312. It is a radical piece of legislation imposing extreme gender ideology in family courts, schools, and public spaces. It threatens parental rights, free speech, and religious freedom. This bill undermines parental rights by classifying deadnaming and misgendering as coercive control in custody cases and risks parental custody for not affirming gender identity. It circumvents child protection laws by ignoring laws that protect minors from irreversible gender transitions, making Colorado a sanctuary state for such procedures. It imposes gender ideology in schools by mandating gender neutral dress codes and forces schools to affirm gender identity changes without parental consent. It attacks free speech and religious liberty by criminalizing deadnaming and misgendering under the Colorado anti-discrimination act, forcing compelled speech and penalizing dissent. Please vote no on this bill.
James Crawford Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions

	for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Kelli Trendler Against themselves	I am strongly apposing this bill. I find it disgusting. These are children who's brains are not developed yet and this bill gives them authority to make a decisions they are not equipped to make. How dare you people. I feel like you driving most good moral people out of the state of Colorado. You should be ashamed of yourselves.
Talia McCafferty For themselves	Regarding Bill HB25-1312 04/30/2025 My name is Talia McCafferty, and I am a resident here in Colorado. I am testifying today on how this bill will help create a safe future for my dear friends and for the friends I haven't made yet in the transgender community. For this testimony, I sat down with one of my friends and asked for her story (and her permission to share this story). My friend, who I will refer to as Haley, discovered her truth in her mid 20s while attending college and going to therapy. This therapist approached the subject of Haley's gender identity with open, gentle questions which allowed her the space to realize and accept who she is as a person. Haley then shared this news with her parents, and the reception was civil and positive. When Haley called her Mom, she responded with "Oh I know honey." When she called her Dad, he was curious and was open to being educated about the subject. Haley told her father that being a different gender and undergoing gender-affirming care meant "I'm still your kid, I'll just be different now." In the end, Haley's father became very supportive. Haley's mother bought her first bra, and her father gave a Victoria's Secret card. Haley still maintains a safe, enduring relationship with her family to this day.

	I've shared Haley's story to show how it's not only possible, but paramount to cultivate a safe environment for the transgender community. Many don't have this safety net, especially young children, and they may be trapped in a dangerous environment. This bill will take the necessary step forward to protect our children and the community as a whole. All humans deserve to feel safe and happy. Thank you. Your consideration is very much appreciated.
Ali Bowling Against themselves	Chair and Senate Judiciary Committee Members- As a mom, I'm asking you to please VOTE NO on HB25-1312. This bill was pushed through with barely any time for people to speak up. That alone worries me. But what's even more troubling is how it puts the government in the middle of decisions that should be made by families. Parents know their kids best—we love them, care for them, and are the ones who should be guiding them, especially when it comes to serious medical decisions. I'm also very concerned about how this bill defines "coercive control." Everyday conversations—things said out of love, concern, or even confusion—could suddenly be labeled as harmful. That's not fair, and it's not how we build understanding or trust. This bill goes way too far! It threatens how we raise our children and how we talk to each other. Please protect our rights as parents and as individuals. Say NO to HB25-1312! Sincerely, Ali Bowling
Joseph Nelson Against themselves	I am opposed to this bill. The only people "misgendering" are those who are pushing "transgenderism". Men and women are defined by their natural characteristics and attributes assigned to them at birth by God. Attempting to redefine one's gender goes against the natural law and is an affront to God himself. We must all make an account to Him at our judgement and those who support any legislation that violates God's immutable laws will have much to answer for! This bill is immoral and potentially harmful to children who frankly are only thinking of gender because of ideas that should have never been put into their heads in the first place.
Rene Hoeffner Against	This is a blatant violation of the First Amendment.

themselves	The U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, which includes the right of every individual to live their life in alignment with their core beliefs. The state has no right to force its citizens to abandon those beliefs on the nature of gender and family. What happens when a parent, trying to prevent irreversible medical decisions for their child, is accused of "coercion" under HB 1312 and loses custody? Who could possibly care more for a child than his or her own parents? Certainly not the state. The framers of the Constitution understood that freedom is maintained through checks and balances, including the balance between state and family. When the government begins redefining parental rights as abuse, we are no longer exercising freedom; we are losing it -perhaps forever.
Davif Johnson Against themselves	I strongly recommend voting NO on HB 25-1312. This bill puts an unfair burden on parents. It poses far too much government control over parents' private and personal business. I believe it is morally wrong.
Charity Brockman Against themselves	HB25-1312 enables children – who are not adults, who can't vote, or drive, or fight in the military, who are not seen by society as able decision makers – to demand that the adults address them by their fantasy identity or face criminal consequences. HB25-1312 sees adults- who fund, teach, and guide these children – as coercive if they don't give up their view reality in favor of the child's often social media fueled fantasy world. HB25-1312 is a bad idea and smacks of George Orwell's 1984. If a person is called by their birth name, or called a boy because they are born male, they may not like it, but its the truth and the truth should be the norm, not fantasy. If a child fundamentally believes he fits under the sexual category/ identity of a 'Furry' and wants his drivers license to reflect that he's a rabbit, are we to accommodate this under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act? HB25 -1312 lets children who are finding their way, testing boundaries, and pushing back on the system make criminal accusations against parents and community members that could impact their lives long after they've passed the phase of puberty and sexual discovery. For the historically very few children who actually do have gender dysmorphia and identity issues, their developmental moment of sexual discovery/ confusion/ resolution should involve the family and community, not the government. It is with family and community that these children will have to find a home in the world, not with government. Living with people often means you have to find common ground and that you can't just criminalize everyone who doesn't see things your way. Its best that children learn this at an early age. Give children, their families and communities time to grow together, and go threw growing pains together, without the threat of government interference.
Juan Lopez	To the Committee,

Against themselves	My name is Juan Lopez and I thank you for allowing me to write a testimony on behalf of myself as a citizen of the United States of American and a resident of 30 years in the state of Colorado. I stand with other Colorado citizens and State Representatives that agree that HB 25-1312 should not be passed. It is a misleading and one sided bill that confuses the reader and allows the state to take away GOD given parental rights. As a secondary US. History teacher I am at a loss for words as to how state representative on the Democratic side conducted themselves in relation to procedures of how this bill was set up to pass. I was surprised by Representative Caldwell's testimony about how the Democrats used Rule 16, to rob opposing Republicans the opportunity of challenging this bill after the 3rd reading. As a history teacher we have been currently studying the Constitution and the power that we the citizens have to keep our leaders accountable in following a faithful system of procedures that allow all people of this state and country an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns (the Bill of Rights / the First Amendment). It has been made clear as to the Democratic side including the lead chair that they view anyone who oppose this bill as evil, having bigotry, and likened to membership in the "KKK". I would even include men and women of the Christian faith being targeted as enemies of this bill because of our stance on marriage, gender, identity, and biblical sexuality. This bill is dangerous, but the greater danger is the way this bill was introduced, the way Democratic representatives tried to shut down the voices of the people, those who oppose this bill, and how the Democratic party classifies anyone who stands in their way of the passing of HB25-1312. If the Democratic representatives of this bill were to give a fair (no restrictions or secret deceitful meetings) opportunity for the opposing party to justly and with respect ,the full platform to speak against this bill, then even the Democratic party would know that this bill would not pass. Too many citizens, parents, leaders, and faith based groups state wide, country wide, and world wide stand against this dangerous, misleading, and suppression of our freedoms as parents and citizens bill. I pray that God will awaken you to not pass this bill and to have mercy on your spirit if you do! Thank you for allowing me to exercise my right to petition against this bill through my written statement. I Juan Lopez wholeheartedly and with no reservations oppose HB25-1312.
Eric Carpenter Against themselves	Dear Committee, I believe the bill, HB25-1312 represents an ideology that is not shared by the majority of Colorado citizens. Our state and nation is in the midst of a significant ideological divide with very diverse perspectives on foundational issues such as gender, race and inherent rights. This makes for a very difficult environment in which to govern. Any bill that demonizes a large percentage of our citizenry is not a thoughtful or responsible bill. And therefore should not be passed. Probably over half of Colorado citizens do not believe gender can be separated from ones biological sex or that gender is simply a social construct. Many Coloradans believe that gender is both derived from and intimately connected to ones biological sex, and the social constructs are from those unchanging biological realities.

	Many conservative Coloradans recognize the competing ideology that sees gender differently and is concerned for our youth. In fact, many have loved ones that would share this competing ideology. However, it is poor governing that would make laws that would take such a stance that would potentially criminalize a conservative view of gender and sex. Furthermore, it is poor governing that would actively undermine parental rights, or religious rights in public spaces. I am formerly asking our legislature to not pass HB25-1312. These ideological divides have to be respected and discussed, not legislated and criminalized. I am hoping that despite ones personal perspective to these issues of sex and gender, that you will recognize the discriminatory nature of this bill. Sincerely, Reverend Eric Carpenter
Bryan Kelsen Against himself	I would like to express my opposition for Colorado house bill 25 - 1312. First of all there should be no need for such a bill as there is no such thing as a transgender child. Children go through phases in their lifetimes as they mature where they question who they are, why they are, and what they are to become. It is natural that a child would question the maturing process. Children don't come up with the idea that they are transgender on their own. This happens due to grooming and adults who take advantage. If we're talking about child abuse that is where the child abuse exists! For example, if your sister decided she wanted to play football with a bunch of boys when she was 10 years old because she was a tomboy, that would be a problem today. Some adult, teacher, person in authority may take advantage of her by suggesting that she is in the wrong body and should be a boy. That's absolutely ridiculous! And then for a law to be proposed where a parent is not legally allowed to declare their child the gender that they were born with is just mind boggling! Can you imagine if it was your grandmother who was a tomboy and was convinced that she should be a boy instead of a girl and went through the mutilation and sterilization that is proposed for transgender children? You wouldn't even exist! I have heard senators explain that this is a bill that is necessary to provide protection for transgendered children. I don't buy it! This is a bill designed to destroy families! This is a bill that goes against God's plan that he made us male and female. God does not make mistakes. People do. Whether intended or not this bill will also attract broken families from other states where one parent would like to allow their child to be mutilated and or sterilized under the guise of being a transgender. If they come to Colorado, the opposing parent will have absolutely no recourse in trying to protect their child. This bill which

	on the surface says that it is to protect children does exactly the opposite! Allowing a child to pursue a suggested idea that they may be transgender is the true child abuse here. It truly saddens me that our state is becoming best known not for the Rocky Mountains and the natural beauty that is all around us, but rather radical legislation that is designed to tear apart families and allow for abortions because they are cheaper than taking care of a baby. And finally, if this bill passes, Colorado may find itself in a position of having to pay out a great deal of money to those who would sue our state for prohibiting freedom of speech and keeping parents from parenting their children. It seems to me that that is not an expense we can afford. Or does that matter either?
Stacey Weaks Against themselves	Dear Senators, My written testimony today is in strong opposition to HB25-1312. As a tax paying, law abiding constituent in good standing and a dad of 3 sons, I demand that you VOTE NO on this garbage legislation. Not only does this bill undermine parental rights, create work arounds to child protection laws and encourage the grooming of children in school by imposing radical gender ideology in school, but it's also a massive attack on free speech and religious liberty. There are so many issues with this bill beginning with the secretive crafting of it about a year ago, the quiet introduction of it at a time it might have gone unnoticed, the very limited time before the house hearing so as to substantially limit testimony and now the question of when it might re-appear. Here we are! It's truly unbelievable. This bill seems to intend to further erode our rights and freedoms in Colorado. If this is NOT truly your intent, it is your duty and obligation to VOTE NO. If this is your intent, a yes vote will serve to confirm to all Coloradans your proud support of the erosion and destruction of our rights and freedoms. VOTE NO. Respectfully, Stacey Weaks

Darren Melugin Against themselves	I oppose bill HB 25-1312.
Lolita Valento Against themselves	Compelled speech is unConstitutional. Telling the truth does not qualify as discrimination. With the exception of genuine intersex individuals, who deserve respect and accommodation, gender ideology is at best problematic. Parents have a right to protect their children from the harms of gender dysphoria and genital mutilation. With bill HB25-1312, the state of Colorado is attempting to create tyranny over rationally minded and religiously convicted citizens. This bill will not help transgender individuals to gain respect. By attempting to avert ordinary people from speaking truth and coercively threatening parenthood by confiscating children, instead this bill will create a great deal of unnecessary animosity. Like SB23-190, even if this bill is voted to become law, it will not stand. HB25-1312 will immediately be legally challenged and overruled, because it is completely unConstitutional to compel anyone to speak in violation of their own convictions. Gender is not mutable. Male cannot become female, and female cannot become male. It is harmful to children to teach them otherwise. By pushing this bill, not only is Colorado liberally-minded legislature overstepping its bounds, but radical ideologists are risking Colorado federal funding under this current administration. This outrageous attempt to usurp commonsense will not go unchecked.
Megan Burke Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love.

	This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Philips Varghese Against themselves	I oppose the bill named HB 25-1312 as I believe that the parental rights will be infringed if the bill is passed.
Elizabeth Blohm For themselves	My name is Elizabeth Blohm. I am an educator and have loved ones who are trans and nonbinary. I am devastated by the attacks on trans rights both because I see the impact on the people I love and many students across the state. Young people and adults are scared to be themselves. In this country, everyone should have the freedom to be who they truly are, have gender affirming care, and stay with guardians who honor their identities. I also understand that attacks on one marginalized community dehumanizes and hurts all of us. Vote YES on H.B.25-1312 to defend the basic tenets of democracy and equal rights.
Kelsey Esquinas For themselves	Dear Members of the Colorado General Assembly, I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 25-1312. This legislation is a crucial step toward ensuring that all children in Colorado, including those who identify as LGBTQ+, are protected and affirmed within their families and communities. Protecting Vulnerable Youth LGBTQ+ youth face disproportionately high rates of mental health challenges, including depression, anxiety, and suicide. These issues are often exacerbated by family rejection or lack of understanding. HB25-1312 aims to address this by promoting affirming environments that recognize and respect each child's identity. Supporting Affirming Parenting This bill empowers parents to support their children's identities without fear of legal repercussions. It encourages open dialogue and understanding within families, fostering healthier relationships and better outcomes for children. Ensuring Fairness in Custody Decisions

	HB25-1312 provides clear guidelines to ensure that custody decisions are made in the best interest of the child, taking into account the importance of an affirming and supportive home environment. This helps prevent situations where a child's well-being is compromised due to misunderstandings or biases. Conclusion By passing HB25-1312, Colorado reaffirms its commitment to the rights and well-being of all children. This legislation is not just about legal protections; it's about sending a message that every child deserves to be seen, heard, and supported. Thank you for considering this important measure. Sincerely, Kelsey Esquinas
Patrick Koppels Against himself	I do not believe that the Congress senate or state or governor has a right to raise my children or my grandchildren so parental rights should be protected not this this goes against parental rights. Furthermore this goes against our state and national constitution. If you will not stop this bill completely then it must go to a vote of the people.
Alex Nguyen For himself	I am a nonbinary adult (27) who has been out as trans to my family for almost a decade now. I grew up in a very conservative area of Colorado and was constantly misgendered and deadnamed by my teachers and peers. I was called freak, ungodly, ignored as if I physically didn't exist, mocked whenever the nicer teachers couldn't hear. I remember once confessing that I felt unsafe for being openly nonbinary and one of my peers muttered "good, you should be scared" under their breath. Even so, I consider myself lucky that I didn't get death threats or physically assaulted like some other queer kids I knew who went to even worse schools. It made life hell to the point that while I couldn't afford to leave the state for college, I chose to attend college at a huge public university that none of my classmates would be attending and spent long hours working and applying for scholarships so I wouldn't have to ever go to a place I knew my tormentors would be. My family was different, though. I came out to my parents and my sister in 2015, and despite my fears, they tried their best to understand and support me. My family worked hard for years to get my new name and pronouns right. My mother bought me clothes and while I didn't medically transition until I was an adult, my father reminded me I had his insurance to do so if I needed. They told me they loved me no matter how I identified or even if that changed—I was their child, and so they loved me no matter what. My sister fiercely defended me at school and even from our own

	less supportive relatives. I knew I had a safe place with them, even in the heart of one of the reddest areas of Colorado, because they loved and supported me. I can't imagine where I would be if my family was legally prevented from supporting me. I probably wouldn't be here because I would have killed myself, or my family would be in jail, just for loving me. Now, I work full time, spending hours doing work that protects the elderly from digital fraud/scams, and I teach/perform cultural dances to people across Colorado. I doubt I would be alive to make the world a better place if I didn't have supportive family, and if I was alive, at the very least, I wouldn't be in Colorado if it weren't comparatively friendly to trans people right now. Protecting trans people also doesn't make it hard for religious people to practice their faiths whatsoever. My mother believes in God, my father was raised Catholic, and many of my family members who support me are Buddhist, Catholic, Protestant, Mormon, etc. I myself was raised and am Buddhist, and in Buddhism, to escape the mortal concept of gender is to be closer to Enlightenment. Some of my dearest friends and family friends who support me are Muslim. And in fact, most of the people who bullied me for being trans in my youth were not especially religious, they hated me for being "weird". The few classmates who were supportive were largely very religious and believed in Loving Thy Neighbor. Hating and making life difficult for trans people to exist publicly is a choice, one that I believe God would never support—if there is a God, They made me transgender, not out of cruelty or challenge, but out of love. I urge you to pass the Kelly Loving Act. Trans people, especially trans kids like I was, deserve to have happy lives. We deserve better futures. But without support, in this political climate, we won't even get that chance.
Noelle Riccardella Against herself	Youth gender care is complicated and nuanced. Children and teenagers are often struggling with mental health issues when they determine they are transgender. They need time and support to help them get through a challenging time and figure out what is really going on for them, whatever that may be. It is becoming clear that the scientific evidence supports giving children time to understand what is going on in their brains and bodies before they make irreversible decisions affecting their bodies. Parents should not be criminalized for advocating for this for their children. Further, this law could have serious unintended consequences. Families could be separated because a parent's actions are misinterpreted or misconstrued. Trying to help your child accept who they are is not child abuse and should not be legislated against by the state.

	I urge all lawmakers to reject this bill, and instead support further research on how to help children that are suffering. Don't separate loving parents from their children when they are sincerely trying to help them get through a challenging time.
Lindsey Slocum Against themselves	I am writing to speak out against HB25-1312. It goes too far in characterizing deadnaming and misgendering as coercive control in parental custody cases. Existing statutes define "coercive control" as "a pattern of threatening, humiliating, or intimidating actions, including assaults or other abuse, that is used to harm, punish, or frighten an individual." That is not at all what many parents are doing when they're trying to figure out what's best for their child who has come out as transgender. Many of these parents are not transphobic, they're just trying to pump the breaks and give their kids some time to figure out who they are. A recent Dutch study found that the majority of adolescents (64%) who expressed a desire to be the opposite sex no longer felt that way in adulthood. If your child tells you they're transgender, you might choose not to automatically affirm them in an attempt to protect them, not in an attempt to harm, punish, or frighten them. Transgenderism is an individual experience and what might be right for one child, might not be right for another. I certainly don't condone parents responding to their child's feelings with bigotry or hurt, but I'm terrified to think of parents being afraid to do what they think is right for their child out of fear of losing custody. It's imperative that judges be free to address these issues in custody hearings on a case by case basis. I'm also concerned about defining deadnaming and misgendering as discriminatory acts in the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. Transgender people should be protected from discriminatory acts, but words are not acts. This seems potentially problematic with the First Amendment. Thank you for your time and attention and for considering a 'No' vote on this bill.
Emery Nelsen-Barbosa For themselves	My name is Emery, and I am a nonbinary transgender marriage and family therapist, living in Fort Collins, CO. I have worked as a therapist for 10 years, during which I have primarily focused my practice on gender expansive/transgender youth and adolescents. The majority of the kids that I have worked with originally seek out therapy because they are dealing with self harm, extreme depression, and/or suicidal thoughts or ideation, due to misgendering, living incongruently, or not being supported for the humans they are. This lack of support could show up at home, at school, or in other settings - the context didn't matter, the result was the same: Deadnaming, misgendering, and being treated as anything less than their true self significantly harmed their mental health to the extent that some wanted to kill themselves. The kids that I've worked with who have been the "healthiest", in all settings, are those that have support in their transgender identity and journey, at home and in school. I am fully in support of the passage of HB25-1312, as it will save lives of countless kids.

William Simpson Against himself	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Melissa Kelley Against himself	April 29, 2025 To: Members of the Colorado General Assembly Subject: Strong Opposition to HB25-1312 Dear Legislators, I am writing as a deeply concerned Colorado resident to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. While I understand the intention to protect vulnerable individuals, this legislation overreaches in ways that undermine constitutional freedoms, parental rights, and the well-being of children. 1. Parental Rights Are Under Direct Attack HB25-1312 dangerously positions Colorado courts to consider parents "unfit" in custody cases for simply referring to their child by their legal name or biological pronouns. This is an unprecedented intrusion into family life, stripping parents of the right to care for their children according to their best judgment. Even more troubling

	is the bill's provision barring Colorado from honoring other states' laws that protect minors from irreversible gender procedures. This not only infringes on parental authority, but it also violates the principle of state sovereignty. 2. The Bill Compels and Criminalizes Speech By defining "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as discriminatory actions under state law, HB25-1312 effectively seeks to criminalize speech. Government-mandated language is a violation of the First Amendment, as confirmed by multiple federal court rulings. Free societies do not punish individuals for expressing deeply held beliefs, especially in matters of biology and personal conscience. 3. It Endangers, Rather Than Protects, Vulnerable Children Many children who experience gender dysphoria—by some estimates, up to 98%—eventually come to embrace their biological sex without medical intervention. Yet this bill promotes so-called "gender affirming care," which can lead to irreversible consequences such as sterilization, sexual dysfunction, and long-term psychological distress. Tragically, studies show suicide rates remain alarmingly high—even after surgical transition. Equating parental concern with abuse, and forcibly separating children from fit, loving homes, increases their vulnerability instead of protecting them. HB25-1312 is not a path to inclusion—it is a path to censorship, family fragmentation, and medical harm. I urge you to reject this dangerous legislation and stand up for constitutional rights, parental authority, and the safety of Colorado's children. Sincerely, Melissa Kelley
Alec Kirby Against themselves	I am against this and believe it will only further degrade morality within our state and are against the laws of nature. I am firmly against HB 1312.
Peter Grant Against themselves	I respectfully oppose HB25-1312, as I believe it represents an overreach of governmental authority and imposes burdensome regulations that may have unintended consequences for families, small businesses, and local communities. Legislation of this scope requires greater transparency, public input, and careful consideration of its long-term impacts. I urge lawmakers to prioritize policies that support individual rights, economic freedom, and support parental authority, rather than expanding state control in ways that risk undermining these fundamental values. Specifically, this bill will undermine parental rights, circumvent child

	protection laws, impose gender ideology in schools, and attack free speech and religious liberty."
Wyatt Jones Against themselves	Deuteronomy 22:5 - "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God. If the courts are going to make us swear under God, then they should consider His ways. Otherwise there is little point to the oath. Statistically, transgender and gender-confused people have higher health issues and death rates. This problem needs to be helped, not given favor to. It's also a bad idea to make it a discriminatory act to misgender someone in public accommodation. Wow, so if the restaurant gets your pronoun wrong they can be sued?
Katelyn Newman For themselves	Knowing and loving transgender individuals unites us all here today. I support the Kelly Loving Act to further defend and protect transgender people and gender-affirming care. Now more than ever, our trans friends and loved ones are being targeted by discrimination and violence, and it is imperative that we use the power of our voices to stand with them and speak up for their rights, their dignity, and their safety. My friend Maya is a radiant, proud, and fierce person who stands as a community leader here in Denver. She is a beautiful trans woman whom I am so honored and humbled to know. She works tirelessly to raise awareness on trans-related issues and call for justice for those that are some of the most marginalized in our country. At a time when the Trump administration is vilifying innocent people and taking active measures to strip them of their rights, personal autonomy, and dignity, it is imperative for our beautiful state of Colorado to stand proud in support of these wonderful humans who are so beloved and admired. Vote for H.B. 25-1312.
AmyJane Reilly For themselves	AmyJane Reilly Regarding Bill HB25-1312 My name is AmyJane Reilly. I am a UCCS student concerned for the transgender community, and I am testifying for legal protections for transgender individuals. This issue affects me personally as my sister was a transgender individual. She took her life in 2022. She had support from her family, gender affirming care, and resources to help her. However, she faced a lot of hatred and oppression outside of her support system.

	In this country, hateful rhetoric and discrimination against the transgender community are rampant. There exists little pushback to this narrative, but this bill would provide much-needed protection for transgender individuals. No one should be discriminated against, and bills protecting marginalized communities are necessary. Although it is too late for my sister, many other transgender individuals would benefit greatly from this bill. No one should be forced to wear the wrong uniform, be deliberately deadnamed or misgendered, or removed from their family as a result of having gender affirming care, because gender affirming care saves people's lives. This bill would help protect the transgender community and make Colorado a more accepting place. Thank you for reading my testimony, and your support for all communities is very much appreciated.
Vada Reilly Against themselves	I respectfully oppose HB25-1312, as I believe it represents an overreach of governmental authority and imposes burdensome regulations that may have unintended consequences for families, small businesses, and local communities. Legislation of this scope requires greater transparency, public input, and careful consideration of its long-term impacts. I urge lawmakers to prioritize policies that support individual rights, economic freedom, and support parental authority, rather than expanding state control in ways that risk undermining these fundamental values. Specifically, this bill will undermine parental rights, circumvent child protection laws, impose gender ideology in schools, and attack free speech and religious liberty. With Sincerety, Vada Reilly
James Duke Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents?

	What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Margo Simpson Against themselves	I am writing in opposition of HB25-1312 and urge you to vote no. Putting aside the fact that this bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday while invoking Rule 16 to squash any opposition debate, the bill in and of itself is extreme state overreach with regards to family matters and free speech. Parents have the sole right, responsibility and the best knowledge on how to raise their children. We should not allow our government to step in between a parent and their child, especially when it comes to serious medical decisions. Parents - not the government - are the ones who know, love and sacrifice daily for their children. Our American values are in direct conflict with this bill which gives government a role in raising children. Also, the bill's broad definition of coercive control includes deadnaming and misgendering which could lead to subjective interpretations that might be used to limit free speech. Public discourse will be chilled as individuals and businesses fear legal repercussions for expressing their personal beliefs. For these reasons and many more, I urge you to stand up for Coloradans and vote NO on HB25-1312. Thank you for your time and consideration. - Margo Simpson Senate District 26 303-250-7932
Eunice Docter	Dear Senators,

Against themselves	We urge you to vote NO on HB25-1312. Following are the reasons to vote NO: 1. It's wrong for any person to tell a child they are not the biological sex they were created to be 2. It's wrong for the state to take away the God given right from the parents to raise and instruct their children Jim & Eunice Docter
Pamela Burleson Against themselves	The bill contains an un-Constitutional provision criminalizing free speech. No matter how offensive we might consider certain language, no matter how much it hurts the feelings of the person to whom that language is directed, it is nonetheless unconstitutional and a terrible slippery slope to criminalize the speaking of any particular words or phrases. It is the duty of all Americans and of all elected officials to protect our constitutional rights - including the right to free speech. Sometimes protecting the rights of all means allowing some people's feelings (including our own) to get hurt. As Americans, we don't have the right to freedom from offense. We have the right to speak freely without fear of government censorship or censure. This right is worth defending. Countries and regimes that have criminalized speech include the Third Reich of Nazi Germany, the former USSR, and China (past and present). Do we want to align ourselves with these powers out of a misplaced sense of compassion? The ends do not and cannot justify the means - especially at the expense of a right that is at the heart of what it means to be American. The House decided that the rights of all are less important than the feelings of a few. They failed to protect what matters most. The senate has the chance to defend us all but may also fail in their duty. If that is the case, I implore you to veto HB25-1312 to protect the rights of your constituents and all the residents of Colorado.
Joel Patchen Against themselves	Committee members, Please vote no on HB25-1312! Limiting parental rights over the moral and preference decisions of their children is totally wrong and dangerous. This decision will weaken families, hurt children, and waste tax payer money that could be used for much better projects that will impact everyone living in our state, not just a small

	percentage. This bill also is a direct attack on free speech and the conscience rights of parents and individuals. Decisions of this nature need to be made person to person and family to family, not by the state. Again, vote no on discrimination! Vote no on HB25-1312!
Catherine Read For themselves	All trans Coloradans deserve to feel safe and protected in their chosen state, as their full and authentic selves. A person being recognized with their correct name, pronouns, and gender is invaluable and poses no threat or disservice to anyone else in their community. Autonomy is protected for cisgender individuals all the time, and trans people deserve the same protections and respect. To not codify these proposed changes would be a shameful stain on the reputation of the entire state.
Tonya Allen For themselves	As a mother of a trans child, this bill matters deeply to families like mine. Every child deserves to feel safe and supported at school — including transgender and nonbinary kids. For us, this is about our child's safety, dignity, and ability to thrive. When my son was 14, he would come home in tears after being misgendered and called the wrong name by teachers. It broke my heart. He felt invisible in a place that should have been safe. Using his chosen name isn't a preference — it's a lifeline. This bill ensures all students can be called by the name that reflects who they are. It also protects their right to dress in a way that expresses their identity. When my son could finally wear clothes that felt like him, I saw his confidence grow. He stood taller. Gender-based dress codes don't just limit clothing — they limit belonging. This bill helps change that. When schools or workplaces fail to affirm trans youth, it puts their mental health at risk. But when they are respected for who they are, everything changes — they do better, feel better, and flourish. As a mom, I want what every parent wants: for my child to go to school feeling safe, seen, and free to become who they are. I urge you to pass this bill — for my son and for every child who just wants to be accepted and allowed to thrive.
Charles Morgan Against themselves	Colorado lawmakers must vote no to HB 1312 due to its violation of First Amendment and parental rights. HB 1312 unconstitutionally limits free speech, religious freedom and parents' rights to provide for the care, nurturing, and moral and religious upbringing of their children. HB 1312 weaponizes our social workers by threatening to remove children from parents' custody merely for calling their children by their birth or given name. HB 1312 will detract from the real and serious work that our social workers do everyday to protect children from legitimate child abuse cases, find appropriate living conditions for children, and to train foster parents.

	HB 1312 is a path down a slippery slope which will eventually lead to prosecution of anyone who “misgenders” another person in any given environment. If it can happen in our homes it can happen anywhere. HB 1312 forces parents to support dangerous, experimental drugs, hormones and surgeries for their children struggling with sexual identity confusion. Some of these procedures are known to be irreversible. HB 1312 is a blatant overreach by state government. The U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of individuals to exercise their religion. The state has no right to force its citizens to abandon those beliefs on the nature of gender and family.
Kristine Willey Against themselves	These measures infringe upon parents' constitutional rights to raise their children and make decisions regarding their care and upbringing without undue government interference.
Bryan Allen For themselves	As a community, we have a duty to create safe, inclusive spaces for all children, including those who are transgender and nonbinary. For families like mine, this bill is about our children's safety. It ensures every student is given the opportunity to learn, work and thrive without fear of discrimination. For trans students, using their chosen name is essential to their mental health and belonging. My son, at 14, would come home in tears after being misgendered and deadnamed by teachers at school, feeling unseen in a place he should have felt safe. This bill ensures that all students have the right to use their chosen name at school. This is not a preference, but necessary for mental well-being. For trans youth, the ability to dress in a way that reflects their identity is crucial for their dignity and mental health. When my son was allowed to express himself through his clothing, he stood taller and gained confidence. Restrictive dress codes force students to dress in a way that doesn't reflect who they are, increasing stress. This bill ensures that dress codes are not based on gender, allowing all students to express themselves and feel valued. When schools and workplaces fail to affirm trans kids, they endanger their well-being. Rejected trans youth face higher risks of depression, anxiety, and suicide. Conversely, when schools and workplaces affirm a transgender student's identity, their mental health improves significantly. My family wants what every parent wants—for our child to go to school and work feeling safe, supported, and free to learn.

	I urge lawmakers to pass this bill to protect the rights, safety, and dignity of transgender kids, ensuring they are seen, respected, and able to thrive without fear of discrimination.
David Rainbow Against themselves	Testimony at Colorado Senate re: HB25-1312 Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I urge you all to oppose HB25-1312. To the Senators who stand in support of Bill HR25-1312: this bill is an outrage for all the reasons that so many have already expressed. The bill takes a sledgehammer to parental rights, to basic biological realities, to First Amendment rights. Anyone producing a bill that makes it more likely that more suffering children will have more body parts removed more quickly—which this bill does—is either brazenly wicked or delusional. In either case, please retract your support for this bill, repent and bow to Jesus Christ the king. To the rest of you who are on the fence about this bill, or who are tempted to support it because you are afraid of the people who will label you as “hateful” or worse, I urge you to use the political power you have been given for good not evil. The millions of people watching you from around the country understands your fear. Recent years have demonstrated the power of the mob to a new generation of Americans. Things you know are evil, or irrational, or idiotic are easy to go along with if it seems like it will please the most or at least keep them from trying to ruin your reputation and career. The fear of the mob is an ancient fear. Majorities have always had the power to coerce or silence those who stand for truth and goodness. The assembly in Ancient Athens, for instance—where democracy was invented 2500 years ago—voted to execute Socrates, that city’s wisest citizen, because he wouldn’t submit and shut his mouth in his pursuit of what is true and good. The pressure you feel to act against your conscience, against common sense, against nature, against God, is nothing new. But to defy it would be nothing new, either. Many heroes in the past have chosen to break ranks with the mob and stand for truth. Take a stand with them. Follow your conscience. Do what’s right. Use your position to lead us toward the good. Oppose HB25-1312. Finally, to those Senators who oppose this bill, please speak clearly against it and be encouraged that most Coloradans oppose the loss of parental rights, free speech, religious freedom, and the overreach of state power into their lives. David Rainbow

L Horton Against themselves	I respect others' rights, but parents' rights must also be respected. Families are the bedrock of our society and parents must have their rights to raise their children as they think best, free speech must be protected.
Susanna Shannon Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Garret Orth Against themselves	As a father of two young children with another on the way, I'm deeply concerned that this bill infringes on my fundamental right—guided by my biblical convictions—to raise my children according to our family's and God's values. Parenting should not be dictated by government mandates that disregard the moral and spiritual framework many families live by. This kind of overreach by the Colorado government invades a space that should remain under the authority of parents and families. Furthermore, the unintended consequences of this bill appear to be overlooked. It risks increasing conflict in already difficult custody situations—something my wife personally experienced as a child. Rather than protecting children, this policy could

	be weaponized in custody disputes, making tense situations even more volatile and painful.
Scott Carter Against himself	This bill is unconstitutional. Do not support a bill that is against the core of American ideals - the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, nor a bill that attacks the manifestation of this ideal found in the autonomy of the American family. The Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment provides that no State shall "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." The Supreme Court (the "Court") has firmly upheld "the fundamental right of parents to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control of their children." <i>Troxell v. Granville</i>, 530 U.S. 57, 67 (2000). The Court further clarified, "So long as a parent adequately cares for his or her children, there will normally be no reason for the State to inject itself into the private realm of the family to further question the ability of the parent to make the best decisions concerning the rearing of that parent's child." The Court also recognized nearly a century ago, that "the child is not the mere creature of the state; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations." <i>Pierce v. Society of Sisters</i>, 268 U.S. 510, 535 (1925). In <i>Prince v. Massachusetts</i>, 321 U.S. 158, 166 (1944), the Court declared that "it is cardinal with us that the custody, care and nurture of the child reside first in the parents, whose primary function and freedom include preparation for obligations the state can neither supply nor hinder." Furthermore, The Fourteenth Amendment of the US Constitution protects the right of parents to make medical treatment decisions on behalf of their children. <i>Parham v. J.R.</i>, 442 U.S. 584, 602 (1979) found that "our jurisprudence historically has reflected Western civilization concepts of the family as a unit with broad parental authority over minor children. . . . Surely this included a 'high duty' to recognize symptoms of illness and to seek and follow medical advice"). Precedent of the rights of parents to make decisions impacting their children has a long precedence in this country, including the federal government's regulations on informed consent by the HHS and NIH. Medical best practices require parental consent for all pediatric research, treatment, or medical procedures. Additionally, in <i>Wisconsin v. Yoder</i>, 406 U.S. 205 (1972), the Court declared that the "primary role of the parents in the upbringing of their children is now established beyond debate as an enduring American tradition."

	Outside of the Court, the United States House of Representatives quoted Yoder and Troxel in House Resolution 547, 109th Cong. (2005-2006). The House affirmed that “the fundamental right of parents to direct the education of their children is firmly grounded in the Nation’s Constitution and traditions.” Lastly, the First Amendment of the US Constitution protects speech between parents and children. This protection is upheld regardless of the nature of the speech, especially when considering religious values and matters regarding sexuality. Let it not be overlooked that the First Amendment guarantees religious freedom and protects against government overreach into religious practices. The Carter household stands FIRMLY against this government overreach. Any and all politicians should be prepared for the political backlash from all political persuasions as a result of this attack against Colorado families. Do not vote for this absurd, nonsensical, and ultimately pointless piece of legislation. It is a farce of a bill, and deserves to fade into history as an absurd and embarrassing affront to our great state and country.
Victoria Hernandez For themselves	Hello, My name is Victoria (she/her), and I am a constituent here in Colorado, district 34. I am writing today to make my voice heard on HB25-1312, urging you to support this bill. Currently, I am an MPH student at the Colorado School of Public Health. My concentration is population mental health and wellbeing. A passion area of mine relates to the LGBTQ+ community. Studies show that bills such as this will save lives of youth. As you know, the United States, and Colorado in particular have a mental health crisis when it comes to youth, especially LGBTQ+ youth. Part of that is due to discrimination, experienced stigma, and cyber and physical harassment. The minority stress theory suggests that health disparities for sexual minorities is from the excess stress sexual and gender minorities face due to stigma and discriminatory practices. Crisis interventions and acute care are expensive. If we are looking at ways to save money on the back end, gender affirming policies, such as HB25-1312 will do just that. Let's prevent mental health problems, not exacerbate them! Thank you.
Angelique Lopez Against themselves	Dear committee , My name is Angelique Lopez and I'm a Colorado native of 50 years. I am an early childhood educator of over 20 years and I'm writing in regard to HB25-1312. This bill infringes on parental rights and seeks to allow government interference. As a mother and grandmother I find the bill an offense to parents across Colorado. Parents have both constitutional and religious freedom to guide and direct their children's upbringing, in to whatever way that they deem fit. This bill indicates that the state/ government has more authority than the parents who have conceived, bore and raised these innocent and impressionable children. The bill is complete lunacy to suggest that the state and its representatives should be more entitled than a parent . Children in public schools have the right to receive an education that is not based on woke ideology, but rather rooted in educating and not indoctrinating. The state has

	no right to interfere or violate the God given rights of parents. This bill would detrimental to the fabric of our society and a grave tragedy to our young children. It is also absurd to allege that parents who do not affirm their child's identity should be considered unfit, abusive, and disgraceful. I, Angelique Lopez earnestly without reservation oppose HB25-1312.
Tracy Scott For themselves	I am writing in full support of HB25-1312. This bill fills in gaps in current Colorado statues and affords missing protections to transgender youth in the state of Colorado. The main opposition to this bill is coming from an astro turfed campaign funded by radical Christian nationalist groups who support the end of LGBTQ rights and the radical anti-trans agenda promoted by the Trump administration. Their main goal is not to protect children but to out them, put them in harm's way, and to ultimately force them and the greater trans community from public view through a continued campaign of harassment, ridicule and shame. This is the only agenda being pushed here. Some of the divisive concepts and actions put forth by these groups include: • That transgender identities and related medical treatments are a "demonic" influence and consist of "body mutilation" • criticizing the outpouring of support for victims of the shooting at the Q-bar including Kelly Loving that this bill is named after. • platforming a radical a right-wing influencer that believed that the Q-shooting was being used to quote "blackmail us into accepting the castration and sexualization of children" • promoting the debunked idea of "rapid onset gender dysphoria" This is just a sample of what the radical christian ideology behind the opposition to this bill has to offer. These groups do not have the rights and safety of children in mind. Their only goal is to continue to push their radical christian ideology on the Colorado parents and to continue their relentless assault on the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. Given the opposition's past statements critical of support for the club Q victims, it would be a disgrace to let this bill fail. Support this bill and let the memory of Kelly stand as a reminder that trans kids are loved and valued in the state of Colorado! Sincerely, Tracy Scott
Kathryn Carter Against themselves	This bill is unconstitutional. Do not support a bill that is against the core of American ideals - the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, nor a bill that attacks the manifestation of this ideal found in the autonomy of the American family. The Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment provides that no State shall "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." The Supreme Court (the "Court") has firmly upheld "the fundamental right of parents to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control of their children." <i>Troxell v. Granville</i>, 530 U.S. 57, 67 (2000). The Court further clarified, "So long as a parent

	adequately cares for his or her children, there will normally be no reason for the State to inject itself into the private realm of the family to further question the ability of the parent to make the best decisions concerning the rearing of that parent's child." The Court also recognized nearly a century ago, that "the child is not the mere creature of the state; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations." <i>Pierce v. Society of Sisters</i>, 268 U.S. 510, 535 (1925). In <i>Prince v. Massachusetts</i>, 321 U.S. 158, 166 (1944), the Court declared that "it is cardinal with us that the custody, care and nurture of the child reside first in the parents, whose primary function and freedom include preparation for obligations the state can neither supply nor hinder." Furthermore, The Fourteenth Amendment of the US Constitution protects the right of parents to make medical treatment decisions on behalf of their children. <i>Parham v. J.R.</i>, 442 U.S. 584, 602 (1979) found that "our jurisprudence historically has reflected Western civilization concepts of the family as a unit with broad parental authority over minor children. . . . Surely this included a 'high duty' to recognize symptoms of illness and to seek and follow medical advice"). Precedent of the rights of parents to make decisions impacting their children has a long precedence in this country, including the federal government's regulations on informed consent by the HHS and NIH. Medical best practices require parental consent for all pediatric research, treatment, or medical procedures. Additionally, in <i>Wisconsin v. Yoder</i>, 406 U.S. 205 (1972), the Court declared that the "primary role of the parents in the upbringing of their children is now established beyond debate as an enduring American tradition." Outside of the Court, the United States House of Representatives quoted <i>Yoder</i> and <i>Troxel</i> in House Resolution 547, 109th Cong. (2005-2006). The House affirmed that "the fundamental right of parents to direct the education of their children is firmly grounded in the Nation's Constitution and traditions." Lastly, the First Amendment of the US Constitution protects speech between parents and children. This protection is upheld regardless of the nature of the speech, especially when considering religious values and matters regarding sexuality. Let it not be overlooked that the First Amendment guarantees religious freedom and protects against government overreach into religious practices.

	The Carter household stands FIRMLY against this government overreach. Any and all politicians should be prepared for the political backlash from all political persuasions as a result of this attack against Colorado families. Do not vote for this absurd, nonsensical, and ultimately pointless piece of legislation. It is a farce of a bill, and deserves to fade into history as an absurd and embarrassing affront to our great state and country.
Micheal Butts Against themselves	Good afternoon, Colorado public servants who have sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, My name is Micheal Elijah Butts, and I appear before you today to respectfully urge the rejection of any legislative effort that would define a parent's refusal to affirm a child's asserted gender identity — or the continued use of a child's legal or birth name — as a form of child abuse under Colorado law. I speak not only as a concerned citizen, but as one who appeals directly to the solemn oath each of you has taken — to protect and defend the constitutional principles that form the bedrock of our legal system. The issue before us today implicates two of the most fundamental protections afforded by the United States Constitution: First, the prohibition against the establishment of religion under the First Amendment; and second, the fundamental rights of parents under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. First, it must be plainly stated: Contemporary gender identity ideology operates as a religious or quasi-religious belief system. It requires adherence to metaphysical propositions — namely, that an individual's internal sense of identity supersedes biological sex — and demands public affirmation through compelled speech, such as the mandated use of preferred pronouns. It prescribes moral obligations, enforces social rituals, and defines dissent — such as "deadnaming" — as a form of heresy warranting punishment. These are the hallmarks not of neutral scientific discourse, but of belief systems protected under the category of religion or philosophical conscience. Accordingly, any law compelling individuals — particularly parents — to endorse, affirm, or act in accordance with this belief system would constitute state endorsement and enforcement of a particular ideology, in direct violation of the First Amendment's Establishment Clause.

	The United States Supreme Court has consistently held that the government may not favor one set of metaphysical or philosophical views over another. In <i>West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette</i> (1943), the Court emphasized that no government official may prescribe orthodoxy in matters of opinion — whether political, philosophical, or religious — nor compel individuals to affirm such beliefs. Second, any such law would infringe upon the fundamental rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their children, rights that are firmly protected under the Fourteenth Amendment’s Due Process Clause. In cases such as <i>Pierce v. Society of Sisters</i> (1925) and <i>Troxel v. Granville</i> (2000), the Supreme Court affirmed that the liberty interest of parents in the care, custody, and control of their children is among the oldest of the fundamental rights recognized by the Court. Parental disagreement with emerging social ideologies — even controversial ones — does not constitute abuse. Unless the state can demonstrate, with clear and convincing evidence, that a parent’s actions pose an imminent and serious threat of harm to the child, the government has no legitimate authority to intervene. Refusal to affirm a child’s gender identity, or use of a child’s given birth name, is not abuse. It is an exercise of parental conscience, judgment, and care — often rooted in deeply held philosophical, moral, and religious convictions. To categorize such actions as “abuse” would be to criminalize disagreement, to weaponize state power against dissent, and to eviscerate the very constitutional protections that safeguard both belief and parental autonomy in a free society. In conclusion: • Such legislation would violate the First Amendment by compelling conformity to a particular ideological orthodoxy; • It would violate the Fourteenth Amendment by infringing on fundamental parental rights; • It would represent a profound and dangerous overreach of governmental authority into the private realm of family life and conscience.

	I urge you, as public servants bound by oath, to recognize the grave constitutional implications at stake and to reject any measure that would seek to redefine parental disagreement as abuse. Thank you for your time, your service, and your careful attention to these vital constitutional principles.
Jayme Klepacki Against themselves	Bill HB25-1312 is in no way protective of transgender individuals. This bill rather creates an avenue for predators and human traffickers to easily exploit minors by isolating them from their families. As a doctor who has served underprivileged communities in Cambodia, I have seen firsthand the effects of human trafficking and heard the stories as to how people were tricked into bondage. Isolation from family and friends is always the first step in the manipulative process. Therefore, by allowing transgender minors or other vulnerable populations within our community to sever those nurturing relationships, who are you really protecting?
Julie Peterson Against themselves	Dear Senate Judiciary Committee, Greetings to you all from Franktown, Colorado! I am writing to you in regard to HB25-1312 and I am asking that you vote "NO" on this bill. HB25-1312 clearly violates the 1st Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.". The 1st amendment protects our right as Americans to practice religion freely, according to our beliefs and convictions, while HB25-1312 restricts freedom of religion by requiring one to call another person by their preferred name/pronouns, regardless of whether this violates one's conscience, beliefs, and convictions. HB25-1312 also violates our freedom of speech, requiring that one must refer to another person by their preferred name and pronouns, even if that goes against one's personal convictions and morals. Our freedoms of religion and speech must be protected - please make a strong stand to preserve and uphold these freedoms in our state! HB25-1312 also directly threatens the rights and freedoms of parents to teach and train their children - this must not be so! The state has no right to criminalize parents for teaching their children according to their personal convictions nor punish parents who disagree with the choices their children are making - again, this would be a violation of the freedoms of religion and speech. Please protect the God-given responsibility parents have to train and teach their children!

	As a Christian, I wholeheartedly believe that each of us are created in the image of God - and not only that - He created us male and female (Genesis 1:27 - "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."). We do not get to decide our gender - it has already been decided by God. We must teach our children this truth - and we must protect the parents who are raising their children this way. For if we continue encouraging the changing of our children's genders, names, pronouns, etc., we are not only endorsing and supporting gender confusion amongst minors, but we will also be heavily responsible for the havoc wreaked upon their impressionable minds and hearts. Even more so, these are acts against almighty God and what He has said in His Word regarding mankind and sexuality, and He will not hold us guiltless for these acts. Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this message. I am praying that God would give you courage and boldness to stand for Truth. Sincerely, Julie Peterson Franktown, CO
Russ Strickler Against himself	HB25-1312 is an assault on the freedoms that define Colorado. By forcing businesses, schools, and parents to adopt government-approved speech or face legal penalties, this bill chills free expression and silences dissent. Laws that punish honest disagreement are not protective; they are oppressive. For the sake of truth, freedom, and parental rights, I urge you to vote NO on HB25-1312.
Paul Berg Against himself	I am strongly against the provisions of this bill. It is not right to give judges power over parents. These are children, still figuring out life. They need the wisdom, love, and guidance of those who know them best, their parents. It is a very serious mistake to allow judges more authority than parents. It is not right to require schools to follow a child's wishes in this. It is not right to limit the press, to regulate their free speech in this matter.

Joshua Hoffpauir Against themselves	As a newly married man, and a prospective parent it's scary to think that any amount of my rights as a parent would be taken by a governmental authority. What right do they have to family that isn't theirs?
Natalie Piquette Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Pam Dyer Against Cherry Hills Christian School	I am in complete opposition of this bill.
Christy Kloter Against Cherry Hills Christian School	I am in complete opposition to Senate Judiciary HB25-1312 (Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals [Garcia, Stewart R., Winter F., Kolker]).
Chakel Palmer Against themselves	Dear Committee Members, My name is Chakel Palmer. I live in Windsor, and I am a parent to two incredible young boys. I testify before you to oppose House Bill 25-1312, a measure that threatens the fundamental rights of parents and the well-being of our children. This bill, while presented as a step toward inclusivity, oversteps boundaries and sets a dangerous precedent that undermines family autonomy and free speech.

	First, HB25-1312 labels actions like "deadnaming" or "misgendering" as forms of coercive control in child custody disputes. These terms, rooted in subjective interpretations, could penalize parents for simply questioning or not affirming a child's gender identity. Parenting involves guiding children through complex decisions, and this bill risks punishing parents for exercising their judgment in what they believe is their child's best interest. By equating disagreement with abuse, the state is inserting itself into deeply personal family matters, eroding the sacred bond between parent and child. Additionally, it removes the opportunity to learn discourse, discussion, critical thinking, and kind civil disagreement which are skills they will need no matter what they do in their life. Second, the bill prohibits Colorado courts from recognizing other states' laws that might remove a child from a parent for allowing gender-affirming care. While protecting access to medical care is important, this provision dismisses the legitimate concerns of other jurisdictions and could incentivize parents to bypass critical oversight, potentially rushing children into irreversible medical decisions without proper consideration. Children deserve careful, thoughtful guidance, not state-driven ideology that sidelines dissenting voices. Finally, by mandating the use of chosen names in public forms and defining certain speech as discriminatory, this bill treads dangerously close to compelled speech. It risks chilling honest dialogue and punishing those who hold differing views, a direct affront to our First Amendment rights. Different voices actually grow us. Different perspectives and experiences help us go further. I want to teach my children to hear other voices, not live in a state where respectful disagreements are replaced with government intervention. All the voices must matter. We do not become better by forcing silence and our will on others but rather by truly hearing and caring for those who share our spaces. Control is not the answer. If we could legislate heart change, the black community wouldn't still be where we are today. They tried to legislate equal opportunities and yet we still find racism, preference, and inequality in many people...in many systems. The only thing I know that changes hearts is Love. To those in the transgender community, and those who think this is the way to support them, I assure you there must be a better way. It's time to do like I'm doing and start having the hard conversations with everyone who is ready to engage. We can find better together by encouraging discourse rather than forcing the silence of a group. Historically, silencing voices always ends in more injustice. In conclusion, HB25-1312 prioritizes ideology over family unity and individual freedom. We must protect parental rights, safeguard children from hasty decisions, and preserve open discourse. I urge you to oppose this bill and stand for the

	principles that keep our families and freedoms strong. Thank you for your time and consideration. And thank you for hearing my voice.
Tracy Ferguson Against themselves	Hello, as a parent and person of faith, I am deeply troubled by HB1312, HB1309, and SB183. These bills undermine parental rights, compel speech in a way that violates the First Amendment, and push sensitive conversations away from families and into the hands of the state. I believe parents, not the government, are best equipped to guide their children through important issues. These bills ignore that truth. I respectfully urge you to vote NO on each of these measures and protect both families and freedoms in Colorado.
Isaiah Hanson Against themselves	No one is opposed to progress. But what we disagree on is what progress is. Over the past millennium, Western culture has increasingly embraced the idea that authenticity is found in self-expression, and that identity is rooted in acting upon inner feelings—particularly those tied to sexual desire. As a result, we’ve witnessed a cultural unraveling. While some remain blind to the consequences of the sexual revolution, it has become painfully clear that it has not been a net good for our society. Our culture has been torn in two, families are more fragmented than ever, and deep harm has been caused to individuals—especially those indoctrinated into these transient and ever changing ideologies. And now, at the center of this legislation, lies a direct threat to parental responsibility. True progress is only possible when built upon the foundation of truth, beauty, and goodness—principles handed down through generations that came before, and ultimately grounded in the honor and glory of God. A society can only flourish when it acknowledges its Creator and conducts itself with thankfulness and humility. But when a culture seeks to tear down all that is good, in order to remake it in the image of its own lustful and destructive passions, it will not survive. That is precisely why we appeal to you today: that Colorado would not continue down this path of confusion and destruction. At the very least, we ask that you would acknowledge common sense, and to the wisdom revealed in nature and in God’s Word. We plead for repentance—from covetous desires that masquerade as compassion—and a return to truth. If passed, this bill will carry serious consequences. Chief among them is the transfer of authority over our children to entities that do not have their best interests at heart. Historically, the laws of this land were designed to protect and uphold the integrity of the family, not to undermine it. Ceding parental rights to the state not only harms the individual child but also erodes the foundational building blocks meant to preserve family governance, and in turn, build strong culture. While some may argue that such measures are rooted in safety and protection, the truth is quite the opposite—and any clear-thinking person can see it. It undermines and subverts that which brings about progress.

	And to speak plainly: transgender ideology and homosexual lifestyles, though promoted as liberating, are associated with significantly higher rates of mental and physical distress, and tragically, premature death. It is a culture of death, not life. To indoctrinate our children in these beliefs, will lead them down a path of confusion and harm, not clarity or hope. It inverts the created order and suppresses the truth—truth that is evident in both nature and Scripture. As Romans 1:28–32 warns: “Since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done... Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.” Much more could be said, but let this stand as a plea: Do not pass legislation that tramples parental rights, ignores the created order, and puts the next generation at risk of disaster. Let us move forward with care, conviction, and truth not hastiness, recklessness, and our eyes wide shut.
Kirsten Lasinski Against themselves	To whom it may concern: As a mother and a tax-paying, voting citizen of Colorado, I urge you to vote "no" on HB25-1312 in the strongest terms possible. HB25-1312 violates parental rights, denies free speech, and harms vulnerable children. The growing body of scientific research shows that transgender ideology is not scientifically grounded and has the potential to do tremendous harm. Furthermore, teaching children that their identity and value are found primarily in their sexuality is nothing less than exploitation. I am one of many who oppose this horrific bill and the agenda behind it. You will not silence us. We will oppose every attempt to destroy parental rights, to harm struggling and confused children, and to force us to use reality-denying and biology-defying language. If HB25-1312 passes, we will have taken one giant step closer to becoming a totalitarian state that denies the rights and freedoms of its people to feed the power of a few. Respectfully, Kirsten Lasinski

Kelly Winslow For themselves	I'm writing to you to express my deep support for HB25-1312, the Kelly Loving Act. This crucial piece of legislation makes important strides in protecting the rights of trans people from discrimination. Seeing it passed would be a massive support to the LGBTQ+ community in Colorado. At a time when so many queer rights are under attack, feeling safe in this state matters a lot to both myself and fellow queer friends and family. By recognizing deadnaming and misgendering as forms of discrimination, banning dress codes that harm gender diverse children, and protecting parents of trans children, this bill advances gender equity in our state. It is also an important and major reassurance for parents of trans children that fear their support for their child will come at the cost of their custody rights. Parents must not be targeted or blamed for seeking affirming care for their children. Especially when studies have shown that without gender affirming care, suicide attempts greatly increase in children. Gender affirming care is medically necessary and life saving. With the trans community under constant attack nationwide, it is important for this bill to pass in order to better ensure equal rights and protections for all! Thank you.
Annie McCarty Against themselves	HB25-1312 introduces measures that could undermine parental rights and family autonomy in Colorado. One major concern is Section 2, which mandates that courts consider "deadnaming," "misgendering," or threats to disclose gender-affirming care as forms of coercive control in child custody disputes. While intended to protect transgender individuals, this provision risks penalizing parents who, out of personal belief or concern for their child's well-being, question or oppose gender-affirming treatments. It effectively shifts decision-making power from parents to the state, potentially alienating families and discouraging open dialogue about complex, deeply personal issues. Critics could argue this overreach prioritizes ideology over the nuanced dynamics of parent-child relationships, especially when evidence on the long-term effects of gender-affirming care for minors remains debated. Another point of contention is the bill's potential to infringe on free speech and individual conscience. By classifying certain language or actions—like using a child's birth name or pronouns aligned with their biological sex—as coercive, HB25-1312 may compel conformity to a specific gender ideology under legal threat. This could chill honest expression, particularly among parents, educators, or caregivers who hold differing views on gender identity. For example, a parent who believes biological sex should guide their child's upbringing might face legal repercussions for what they see as exercising their rights to raise their child according to their values. This raises questions about whether the state should dictate how individuals navigate these sensitive matters, potentially eroding personal freedoms in favor of a one-size-fits-all approach. Finally, Section 3 of the bill, which bars Colorado courts from enforcing out-of-state laws allowing child removal due to gender-affirming care, could create legal

	inconsistencies and jurisdictional conflicts. While framed as protective, this provision might encourage "forum shopping," where families move to Colorado to evade oversight from states with stricter regulations on pediatric gender treatments. Opponents might argue this undermines the broader legal system's ability to balance child welfare with parental authority across state lines. Additionally, it assumes gender-affirming care is universally beneficial, disregarding cases where medical professionals or parents question its appropriateness for certain minors. This blanket approach risks prioritizing political goals over a careful, case-by-case evaluation of what truly serves a child's best interests. Please vote "NO" on HB25-1312!
A'Ja Lyons Against themselves	I believe all Americans support human rights. However, negating material reality is not a human right. Requiring judges consider how "affirming" a parent is when determining custody and visitation rights in child custody decisions is not pro-child or pro-family. Non gender affirming parents should not be deemed abusive. Parents should not have to comply with the religion of gender ideology or risk losing custody of their child. Helping a child love themselves as they were born, perfect, whole, lovely, sane and safe, is healthy parenting. Requires that schools participate in a child's self-deception. It should not be a crime for the press to accurately report information about a trans-identified person. It is not hate speech or vitriol to call someone by the name their parent gave them and is on their legal documentation. There are real issues. Colorado should be a state for progress, not restricting speech, criminalizing people who don't adhere to fascist tyranny of an ideology, or separating families for trivialities.
Amber Bunch Against themselves	I am a mother of four children. This bill concerns me for the following reasons: -This bill undermines parental authority by threatening to revoke the custody of parents who call a child by their birth name and pronoun that match their sex. It also prohibits Colorado courts from enforcing laws that other states might use to protect children from harmful "gender transitions." This provision disregards the rights of parents to make medical decisions based on their own child's best interests and the sovereignty of other states. -This bill defines "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as discriminatory acts under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. This sets a dangerous precedent by criminalizing speech and forcing individuals to use language that may conflict with their beliefs. Courts have already held in several recent cases on similar policies that states cannot compel speech. Freedom of speech is a Constitutional right and should not be taken away from parents.

	-Up to 98% of children who struggle with body dysphoria grow to accept their biological sex by adulthood. So-called "gender affirming care" results in castration, sterilization and life-long sexual dysfunction. After so-called "sex reassignment surgery," (genital mutilation) boys and girls are nearly 20 times more likely to die from suicide than the general population. Children who "transition" socially and particularly those who begin puberty blockers usually go on to be medicalized for life. Ripping children from fit and loving families over fraudulent allegations of abuse puts them at even greater risk. -This bill mandates schools change their dress codes and naming policies, requiring them to be inclusive of all "chosen names" and gender expression—for any reason whatsoever. These mandates impose additional burdens on educators and administrators, asking them to focus on promoting indoctrination over education. Our public schools are already dismally failing at educating our children. This bill will only exacerbate the problem. The ONLY time a state should ever remove a child is for ACTUAL abuse, not to impose a destructive ideology. The truth is simple. It is never abuse to raise a girl as a girl or a boy as a boy. It is also not abuse to tell a girl she is a girl or to tell a boy he is a boy. Especially when the people who birthed, raised, and love these children are guiding them toward truth and not participating in the current delusions of society. You MUST vote NO on this harmful and destructive government overstep of boundaries.
Elizabeth Cerise Against themselves	My name is Elizabeth Cerise and I would like to ask that you all vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill criminalizes parents for calling their child by their birth name if their child wishes to be called by a different name because of confusion about their sex. This bill violates our religious liberty to teach our children (by calling them their birth name) that God created them beautifully and unchangeably in His image as either male or female (Genesis 1:7). It also violates our first amendment rights of free speech and compels us to say things we don't agree with (E.g. "chosen name" vs. birth name). This bill assumes the state is better suited than families to make personal decisions. Parents, not the state, are the ones caring for their children day-in and day-out and are those best suited to make decisions for their children. This bill seeks to destroy parental authority in the family unit and historically, societies with weak family units become weak societies. This bill would continue to weaken our culture, not strengthen it. When children are taught that their parents don't hold authority over them, they eventually become people who believe no one has authority over them, including teachers, professors, law enforcement officers, and even the law itself. And if those people have no authority to enforce laws and rules, this person now believes he can do anything he wants to, whether it hurts others, breaks the law, etc. If an entire generation of children grow up thinking authority doesn't matter, where does

	this lead our culture? It leads to chaos and lawlessness. This bill is bad for our children, our parents, Colorado, and our culture as a whole!! This bill also prohibits public, and charter schools from using school dress codes that are based on gender. Incredibly, it places the definitions of "misgendering" and "deadnaming" into the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. Free speech is taken away by requiring adults and businesses to use someone's "chosen name" or pronouns in public places of accommodation. HB25-1312 criminalizes parents, violates religious freedom and parental rights! Please vote NO on this BAD BILL for Colorado!! Thank you, Elizabeth Cerise
Doug Graham Against himself	Do not pass this bill. The state has no right to remove a child from parental supervision because of gender misinformation propagated by deceptive liberal practices. Parents are responsible to keep their children safe, secure and free of controversial gender ideation issues that do not apply to 99% of the nation. This bill is indicative of the tyranny of the minority, imposing their will through legislative actions that do not represent the vast majority of parents in this country. Parents know their children better than any state official, school teacher or anonymous next door neighbor. This bill is flawed in every aspect. Do not pass this bill.
Rachel Burke For himself	I urge the senators to vote yes on this bill. Please do not capitulate to the hate groups that oppose it. We must protect them most vulnerable members of our community at this time when fascism and oppression are on the rise federally. This bill quite frankly doesn't deserve the opposition it is receiving. Please continue to make Colorado a safe and accepting state.
Sheeba Philips Against himself	I strongly oppose HB 25-1312 bill, as it stifles the rights of the parents to nurture their children according to their religious beliefs and gives too much power to the state over our children.
Jamie Koch Against himself	My name is Jamie Koch, and I am a mother, a Colorado resident, and a passionate advocate for the God-given rights of parents to raise their children according to their faith, values, and conscience. I am voicing my deep and urgent opposition to HB25-1312. This bill, under the guise of protecting children, threatens to do the exact opposite: it undermines the family unit, infringes on parental rights, and opens the door to government overreach into

	the most sacred and personal relationship on earth — that between a parent and their child. This bill allows for children to be removed from their homes if parents do not affirm a state-endorsed ideology, particularly around issues of identity and belief that many families — including mine — see as controversial, harmful, and contrary to our sincerely held religious convictions. This is not about abuse or neglect. This is about coercing compliance with a worldview that many parents find deeply troubling and, yes, spiritually dangerous. As a mother, I love my child fiercely. I nurture him, protect him, and guide him through life's questions with wisdom, compassion, and truth. HB25-1312 sends the chilling message that if I do not conform to a particular political or ideological narrative, the government could label my care as "unsafe" and take my child away. This is not compassion. This is tyranny cloaked in the language of progress. This bill doesn't protect children — it weaponizes government power against parents who dare to stand on their values, their faith, and their constitutional rights. History has repeatedly shown us the tragic consequences when governments insert themselves into the parent-child relationship under ideological pretenses. We've seen it in the residential school systems for Native American children, where young lives were torn from their families to be forcibly "re-educated," resulting in trauma, abuse, and even death. We've seen it in totalitarian regimes where parents were punished for teaching their children traditional values — regimes where children were taught to report their own parents for dissenting beliefs. These historical atrocities didn't begin with violence — they began with laws like HB25-1312, which claimed to protect but instead gave the state power to destroy the family unit. The moment we say the state knows better than parents — not in matters of abuse or danger, but in matters of belief — we are on a path that history warns us against. A path where parental rights are trampled, dissent is criminalized, and children suffer. HB25-1312 doesn't protect children — it weaponizes the government against parents who won't conform. It targets families like mine who follow our faith and refuse to bow to what we believe is a harmful ideology. We are not abusers. We are not dangerous. We are devoted, loving parents who simply want to raise our children in truth. If this bill passes, it will not bring healing. It will bring heartbreak, legal chaos, and social unrest. It will drive a wedge between parents and children, and foster fear instead of safety. History is warning us — do not go down this road.

	I respectfully urge you: reject HB25-1312. Protect our children by protecting their families. Uphold parental rights. Do not repeat the mistakes of the past.
Diane Borden Against themselves	This bill is a dangerous overreach that undermines parental authority, restricts free speech, and places political ideology above common sense. It threatens to penalize loving parents for raising their children according to their values, while forcing schools and families to adopt state-mandated beliefs about gender and identity. Every parent has the right to guide their child's upbringing — not the government, not the courts, and certainly not school administrators. HB25-1312 tramples that right. Please stand up for freedom, for families, and for the Constitution. Vote NO on HB25-1312.
Stephen McKenna Against themselves	As a trial lawyer for over twenty-five years in both private practice and for the federal government, I want to speak to Colorado HB25-1312 from a legal perspective. While this bill purportedly "establishes several legal protections for transgender individuals," those "protections" impose penalties of up to \$3,500 per violation for "misgendering" or "deadnaming" a transgender person. Parents can lose custody of their child for doing so. This is not only destructive to families, but also blatantly unconstitutional. Freedom of speech and religion are enshrined in our Constitution's "Bill of Rights." The First Amendment, and over a century of Supreme Court precedent interpreting it, imbues parents with the right and obligation to raise their children, NOT the state. It also protects the right to free speech, which forbids compelling others to say what they do not believe. This bill eviscerates both and as such, if passed and signed into law, would be legally challenged on both grounds. In my opinion, courts would find this law unconstitutional. Thus, Colorado taxpayers will fund not just the \$14 million to implement it in FY 2025-26, but also another million or two in legal costs to defend it, and immeasurable potential damages owed to wrongly punished parents, businesses, and churches when it is ultimately overturned. All children should be supported, especially those who are struggling. But violating the Constitutional rights of parents and others who refuse to parrot the pseudo-science of "gender affirming care" is not the way. I urge you to vote NO on this bill. Please save Colorado the cost and embarrassment of another legal loss in the Democrat's Quixotic quest to impose their radical ideologies on all Coloradoans. Love, common decency, and other laws already protect those who are, or believe they are, different. Thank you and God bless.

Christin Anderson Against themselves	As a parent and practicing Catholic as well as a survivor of domestic violence, this legislation is deeply concerning due to the broad strokes with which it is painting. Non-parents are initiating legislation and capitalizing on political climate to give rights to one class of people while removing rights from another. My abuser is transgender but was not when we were married. He has already actively used a sympathetic system to transgender rights to slowly chip away at my rights. This doesn't seem to be a consideration being made by legislators that there is a very real possibility that there are transgender abusers that are going to use this to exploit the system and play the victim while simultaneously victim blaming. The court has already bent over backwards to show preference for my abuser's pronouns and story and totally disregards the violence and DV legislation sponsored by the people here sponsoring this same bill. My abuser has taken countless hours of my life, my time, my money, my dignity and I have been respectful throughout the entirety of it. Were this to pass, I would be required to abandon my faith in favor of honoring the preferences of my abuser. This is placing legal preference on transgendered individuals which is categorically illegal to base decisions on transgender status of a parent. The aim is so multifaceted as to codify gender affirming care, define non-acceptance as domestic violence and child abuse. The law is so broad as to require parents to submit to the state in how best to care for their children when reason and logic and faith are all major decisions the state already allows parents to have. To change who makes the major decisions from a parent to the state assumes that the state knows how to raise a child they've never met better than I do. We are taking direction from bill sponsors to tell us how to raise our children and practice our religion and disagreeing with them is coercive control and child abuse. This is insulting to survivors of domestic violence. This is an attack on religion and speech and has no place in the family court system. Not to mention to cost to implement this bill when we are drastically cutting teacher funding and other programs across Colorado. The financial cost to this bill is a conservative estimate and the way it is written to consider deadnaming as coercive control are extreme definitions unsupported by academic and medical thought. Please do not pass this bill as written. It is an assault to religion, free speech and the constitutional right to raise our children as we see fit. Believing the state can raise my child better than me is a logical fallacy and is not a good faith argument. None of the pieces of this legislation are good faith efforts. It's political capitalization on a moment that has long lasting and serious implications and that doesn't seem to be a consideration for law makers in this state.
Lauren Welch Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions

	for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Ashlynn Kinzel Against themselves	I am against this bill as it takes away the rights of parents and encourages mental illness among children.
Wilbur Pembleton For themselves	Hello, My name is Wilbur Pembleton and I am testifying for this bill. As a transgender individual, and as someone who has many transgender friends. This bill would positively impact me and my community. I have dealt with transphobia and struggles with people using my pronouns, so to have legal protections for me in my house would be of great benefit. Several of my friends have lived in abusive households, and being able to get out of those households easier would positively impact them in many ways. Because of this, I am asking you to please vote in favor of this bill. Thank you.
Nate Ahern Against themselves	I am private education administrator, and I oppose HB25-1312 as it would usurp the right of some private companies or schools to uphold their conscience-based institutional values. Private individuals are free to believe what they want about their own gender, but their beliefs should not coerce a private institution to affirm what it believes to be false. HB25-1312 would compel some institutions to either violate their consciences on the one hand, or to violate the law on the other.
Madeline Brown For themselves	I'm a Air Force veteran and a transwoman that has lost gender affirming care twice since I was medically retired. Once through the state, DeSantis enforced stricter standards so that only doctors can prescribe hormones, making only one third of the prescribers available for everyone and no one from the VA could prescribe for me. Forcing me to go two states over to find anyone. I tried to escape that hell, by coming to Colorado and now I've lost my VA gender affirming care again through the Federal government.

	I need a medical haven to get hormones and surgeries or my existence will be pain.
Elena Foster Against themselves	I Elena Foster am against this Bill of which is trying to make parents and others conform to the transgender act. We as citizens have the freedom and rights to stand up for what we believe in, and this Bill that the state is trying to pass is wrong and unconstitutional.
Andrew Welch Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Stefane Phipps Against themselves	Madams and Sirs: In short, HB25-1312 is an unconstitutional assault on parental rights and must be stopped. I am writing to respectfully urge you to oppose HB 25-1312. This bill violates the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children and make decisions about their care, education, and well-being without government interference...

	This bill unethically criminalizes parents for calling their child by their birth name if their child wishes to be called by a different name because they are confused about/rejecting their God-given sex... This bill is an infringement to free speech... This bill allows the state to interfere with private family decisions about moral, spiritual, and biological truths... Parenting children has not, should not, hopefully will not ever be the role of the government. Those rights belong to the parent. This bill places state-imposed ideology above the God-given and constitutionally protected responsibility of parents to direct the upbringing of their children - a principle enshrined in both scripture and longstanding American law...the very law that recognizes that parents, not the government, are entrusted with raising and educating their children. HB 25-1312 empowers the government to second-guess or punish parents who seek to raise their children according to biblical teachings and does not safeguard religious families who lovingly mentor their children in faith and truth. Parents must NOT be criminalized for doing what is right — raising their children with love, conviction, and biblical truth. This state goes out of its way to protect any minority belief or ethics system to any degree...and it's time you all stand up for what is INCREASINGLY becoming a minority in Colorado...the Christian parent. In so doing, I'm not asking for transgender children to be criminalized or ostracized or penalized...I'm just asking that *I* not be criminalized, ostracized, or penalized for raising my children in truth and love. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protecting the rights of *ALL* Coloradans, minority voices included.
Leslie Seabeck Against themselves	Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am writing to strongly oppose House Bill 25-1312. While I understand the intent is to protect transgender individuals, this bill introduces significant risks that could harm children and families, while undermining fundamental parental rights. By criminalizing any deviation from immediately affirming a child's gender identity, the bill puts parents at risk of accusations of abuse or coercion simply for expressing concerns. This undermines the right of parents to make informed decisions about

	their children's well-being, particularly regarding complex and evolving issues like gender identity. This bill also violates the U.S. Constitution's protection of parental rights, as affirmed in <i>Troxel v. Granville</i> (530 U.S. 57, 2000), which safeguards parents' rights to make decisions about their children's care. The bill would allow one parent to unilaterally decide a child's gender identity, disregarding the rights of the other parent, and potentially escalating conflict in custody cases. Furthermore, it encourages legal manipulation in custody disputes. A parent could falsely accuse the other of "misgendering" or "deadnaming," using these accusations to gain leverage, even without evidence of harm. This violates due process protections under the 14th Amendment and could lead to the unjust removal of a parent from their child's life. The bill also risks coercing parents into conforming to a particular speech standard on gender identity and infringing on First Amendment rights. By forcing individuals to speak in a specific manner on deeply personal issues like gender identity sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach. Lastly, this bill fails to account for the fact that children's understanding of gender may evolve over time. Pressuring children to adopt a gender identity prematurely, without careful consideration, could lead to long-term emotional harm. Decisions about gender identity should be made thoughtfully, with input from both parents and professionals. For all these reasons, I urge you not to pass HB25-1312. This bill threatens parental rights, infringes on constitutional protections, and risks unnecessary harm to children. I ask that you carefully reconsider the impact it would have on families and vote against it. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Leslie Seabeck

Jesse Duke Against himself	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Nancy Fredricks Against himself	As a lifelong Democrat, progressive, and feminist devoted to human rights for all, I want my government to stop endorsing gender ideology, like the UK Supreme court did recently. As an educator, I know deep in my heart that it's wrong to teach children they are born in the wrong body and they need to change their sex or they will die. I teach children to love and accept themselves as the unique beings they are. If I were a parent, I would do everything I could to protect my child from this dangerous, unscientific belief system being taught as fact in schools. I don't think the government should pressure parents to promote the chemical and surgical sterilization of their children. If you think I'm exaggerating, you're naive and need to educate yourself. The Democrats act oblivious to the policy implications of this pseudo religion. Why won't they listen to us? It's why we lost the last election. The Dems look stupid, lazy, cowardly, and untrustworthy--and it's time they woke up from their dogmatic slumber. This is not a fringe issue. Forcing parents to embrace the tenets of gender ideology is unconstitutional. You are forcing an unscientific, homophobic, misogynistic belief system on us. Parents have a right to protect their children from the greed of the powerful trans medical industrial complex.

Stan Ebel Against themselves	The proposed bill is an egregious abridgment of individual rights by the state. The rights of parents and their children are being usurped without basis. The topic of gender determination has been exploited by the LGBTQ minority as a wedge, inserted into the family environment to destroy stability of that environment and to provide endorsement for their choices. It's unconscionable to ask children that are developmentally and emotionally immature to question their biologic sex and to unfairly press for a decision they are not equipped to make. The demand is often being made without parents' awareness the topic has even been raised and being promoted by educators and peers, biased outsiders without restraint or respect for the best interests of or the long term impacts on both parents and their children. Transitioning anyone from their biologic sex, regardless of age, is very questionable and fraught with problems that become an ongoing physical challenge. Even more so, it is a psychological disruption that is anything but defined or predictable. It is absolutely wrong for the state to dogmatically promote, underwrite, and codify such a poorly justified issue that is dependent on each individual and their environment. This bill needs an emphatic "NO" vote. Stan Ebel
Elena Foster Against themselves	I Elena Foster am against this Bill of which is trying to make parents and others conform to the transgender act. We as citizens have the freedom and rights to stand up for what we believe in, and this Bill that the state is trying to pass is wrong and unconstitutional.
Isabel Howard Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love.

	This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Omer Selim Against themselves	Subject: Urgent Testimony Opposing HB 1312 Dear Members of the Committee, My name is Omer Selim, and I am writing today as a concerned Colorado citizen, a parent, and an advocate for the enduring rights of families and children. I urge you to vote NO on HB 1312 — a dangerous bill that undermines parental rights, threatens the safety of children, and ignores a growing body of scientific evidence regarding gender-related medical interventions. Parental authority is not a privilege granted by the state; it is a fundamental right and responsibility. Loving parents are best positioned to make thoughtful decisions for their children based on their child's unique needs, beliefs, and family values. HB 1312 would criminalize parents for exercising this essential role — even labeling them abusive for referring to their child by their given name. This is not protection; it is state-imposed coercion that will rip families apart. Emotionally, we must acknowledge the long-term trauma that results when children are separated from supportive parents. Research published in the Journal of Child and Family Studies (2020) shows that strong parent-child relationships are the single most critical factor in positive mental health outcomes for youth, including LGBTQ+ youth. Criminalizing parental care will not foster safety — it will create despair, isolation, and lasting harm. Scientifically, there is no robust consensus supporting the early medicalization of gender-questioning minors. In fact, growing evidence warns against it: A comprehensive review by Dr. Hilary Cass for the UK's National Health Service (The Cass Review, 2024) concluded that the evidence base for puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones in minors is "remarkably weak" and emphasized that these interventions are experimental at best. A 2020 systematic review published in BMJ Global Health found a lack of high-quality, long-term studies demonstrating that medical transition improves mental health outcomes for children and adolescents.

	Sweden's National Board of Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen, 2022) sharply restricted the use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for minors, citing serious risks and insufficient evidence of benefits. Research published in Archives of Sexual Behavior (2023) noted that a significant number of young people who undergo medical transition later experience regret and detransition, often citing insufficient psychological evaluation and pressure to pursue medical paths prematurely. In contrast to claims supporting HB 1312, these peer-reviewed studies show the scientific community is increasingly alarmed by the rush to irreversible treatments for minors. It is reckless and irresponsible for policymakers to mandate affirmation-only approaches when medical experts worldwide are urging caution. We must ask: if the countries that pioneered early medical interventions are now pulling back due to serious concerns, why would Colorado charge ahead with even fewer protections for children and families? Parental love is not abuse. Protecting a child from experimental, life-altering medical procedures is not neglect. It is the very definition of good parenting. I implore you: do not criminalize care. Do not strip children of their greatest defenders — their parents. Do not sacrifice the well-being of Colorado's youth to satisfy ideological pressures that are increasingly being rejected around the world. Please vote NO on HB 1312. Stand for families. Stand for science. Stand for children. Thank you for your time, your service, and your careful consideration. Sincerely, Omer Selim 1145 Raindance Place Erie, CO 80516 303oselim@gmail.com
Jodi Hardesty Against	Parenting is one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences. It is heart wrenching when a parent has to lose parenting time due to child custody disputes. However, to try and make it fair for each parent the child must have their time

themselves	divided, ideally equally between two parents. Unfortunately this puts many factors at play that impact the peace of the child and the family. Since it can become so complicated the courts typically require parents to take a course that assists parents in finding peace while co parenting after divorce. After many years of instructing this course I have observed many destructive scenarios that end up being the most detrimental to the child or children involved in the disputes. The legal system gets used as a tool to gain control over the ex partner and the children are the tool to cause the destruction. Legal battles often take place, time and time again with false allegations in an attempt to alienate a child from the other parent or to get more time and therefore more money from the opposing parent. This new bill appears to limit judicial discretion and is yet another tool in a co parenting dispute that puts already distressed trans children in an unwinnable situation of choosing the "better" parent and vilifying the other parent. There are many healthy ways to raise a child who has gender dysphoria and there is a great divide in the medical and mental fields of proper care. As numerous whistle blowers that work in gender clinics like Jamie Reed can confirm. She was one of the voices which helped expose that often the care that was thought to be helpful is found to be detrimental and in fact many children who were not given gender affirming treatment desisted on their own. The clinic she worked for is now closed. Children's brains are not fully developed until their mid 20s. Which is why they are not allowed to get tattoos, smoke or drink or join the military. As with any significant transition in a child's life particularly one that requires life altering medical and mental health decisions the children need both parents to help them. This bill cements that even an accusation of a parent not being gender affirming enough or using an incorrect pronoun for a child they have known as the opposite gender or using their birth name that they may have used for years could make these parents lose custody. Even the most well meaning parents who go along with a transition will make these mistakes naturally as it is an extreme shift for the entire family and with any significant change it takes time to adjust. Part of being a parent involves making hard choices and saying no and allowing children time to mature before they make life altering decisions, like gender reassignment surgery or taking hormones that are not natural for their gender, or waiting to make sure they are not making rash decisions about removing healthy body parts. These are life altering decisions that require these kids to need medical treatments for the rest of their lives. These are not decisions that should be made into a legal battle to be won or to be put in the hands of strangers in the Department of Human Services or the legal systems. Children are so vulnerable to manipulation, they are so susceptible to becoming victims to a well meaning legal system that often rewards only lawyers, winners of parenting time and the medical system. As a mental health therapist I have worked with many people who have been on the receiving end of parental alienation and the weaponizing the legal system which is incredibly harmful to children and families.

	Please do not provide another method to tear families apart and take away parents ability to support and guide their children.
Stephanie Vitale Against themselves	Hello, I am a mother who has personally experienced a child struggling with gender confusion. Had this law been in effect, it would have handcuffed my ability as a parent to lovingly guide and direct the upbringing of my child had I been in a legal custody case for her. As a parent it's my responsibility, NOT the state, to determine what I believe a healthy path for my child is. My values include NOT lying to my child about their biological sex, telling her that I don't believe in "gender identity", and letting her know the fact that TRANS is a verb, not a noun and that no one is born "trans". Transition, or trans for short, is just an action people may take to try and look more like the opposite sex. If this includes psychological transition or physical transition, that is for an adult to decide, not a child. Therefore, NO LAW that inhibits a parents ability to parent their child in a loving manner that protects them and favors a cautious approach should ever be enacted. This is egregious overreach by the state in this regard. Also, it really feels like gaslighting when proponents/sponsors claim this is to "protect the affirming parent." No, it is not. It is to promote affirmation only and punish those who disagree this is the right approach to best help someone in distress. I know you all believe you are doing what is right, but you are comparing 2 very different situations. Thinking of oneself as the opposite sex cannot be compared to sexuality and it's very harmful to encourage a pattern of thinking that puts one at odds with their own physical self. In time, it will be even more well known that those who encouraged this actually actually harmed those who were struggling with gender confusion rather than helped them. In fact, it's becoming more widely known that encouraging people to transition is effectively trying to "trans" the gay away. One has to wonder why we are full steam ahead with that as a state? You have a chance to be on the right side of history, but you must understand that these laws that promote belief in subjective gender identity over biological sex are actually not based on reality and are really harmful to those struggling. A reality based approach is always best IF you really, actually want to help people. A drug addict will report feeling better after ingesting, snorting or injecting their drug of choice. It doesn't mean giving into their demands is the best way to help a drug addict. And it also shows feelings are unreliable when understanding what is objectively best for a person if you're trying to help them. I would send links to the systemic reviews of the evidence (the gold standard in science) showing all of this, but most in the CO legislature only seem to ignore them and only listen to activist groups who infiltrate our laws and who have no incentive

	to actually understand and develop tools as to how to best help those struggling with the concept of gender. I hope this time, you prove me wrong. Please vote no on HB25- 1312. Thank you for your consideration. Stephanie Vitale
Cassandra Kernick For themselves	As someone who moved to Colorado because of its inclusivity, I am writing today in support of The Kelly Loving Act (HB25-1312). And I urge you to support this bill too. Trans people in the U.S. are under attack. While other states prove their commitment to government oversight and bigotry, we have an opportunity to take an important stand to protect those most vulnerable right now. Supporting trans people is simply the right thing to do. But there are also compelling economic arguments for continuing to position Colorado as a welcoming place for all people. For example, I moved to Colorado from Nebraska—a state that's facing a growing brain drain. People like me and my spouse, who got our degrees in NE, fled the state after to live somewhere that actually represented our values. Nebraska is facing a rapidly aging population and inability to fill open jobs because so many educated workers leave the state. And frequently the state many of us flee to is Colorado. Because we want to live somewhere that actually protects ALL the people who live there. We want to live in a state that isn't afraid to speak up and say that we won't be bullied into treating others as less than. Right now, we can further our reputation as welcoming haven for ALL people. We can affirm our position as welcoming to trans people and parents of trans children who want their kids to grow up healthy, happy, and authentically. Please show your support for inclusion in the state of CO by supporting HB25-1312. Thank you.
Richard Antinora Against themselves	Vote No. Parents need to retain their rights for their children. Thank you
Garrin Chester Against themselves	It is my personal belief that this will violates the rights of parents. If we are to believe purchasing a vehicle, firearm, drugs, or of alcohol is not suitable for children under a certain age. Because they are not mature enough to make wise disicions. Then why do we think deciding gender is appropriate for them? The parents have the right to protect and guide them. Why are we protecting a double standard? This is making room for criminals, and manipulative people to attack and dismantle good, law abiding families. Why is it okay that we treat children like children in all except gender? Why are we protecting life altering and dangerous procedure to those who cannot understand the risks and impact of such decisions? And giving power to people to push their views and agendas on others, especially those that tear families apart and protect those disrupt.
Lillian Fuglei	Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I'm writing today in full support of HB25-1312. This bill will create crucial protections for transgender people,

For themselves	ensuring they have the same rights and safety as everyone else. For as long as I can remember, there have been trans people in my life that I loved. For the last few months, I've watched those same people, who I care for, be attacked by the current administration. I have watched them lose rights, and feel constantly worried about what will happen next. Right now, Colorado has the opportunity to step in and guarantee that as a state, we will provide a safe place for trans people to live. This has always been important, but now, more than ever, it is crucial to give our full support to trans Coloradans. We are a state that deeply values everyone in our community, especially marginalized communities. Passing this bill follows our desires and values as a state, and ensures that our state is a safe home for the trans people within our community.
Vicki Stermitz Against themselves	Vote NAY/NO on advancement of HB25-1312, [misleadingly] titled "Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals" and "Kelly Loving Act"... ===== ===== The Colorado Parent Advocacy Network (CPAN) is calling on all Coloradans and our allies to join in fighting one of the most extreme and unconstitutional bills we've ever seen: HB25-1312 – misleadingly titled "Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals." What HB25-1312 REALLY Would Do-IF passed on: • Redefine "coercive control" to include "misgendering" or "deadnaming" your own child—making it grounds for losing custody in family court or through CPS. • Define misgendering as a form of discrimination under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act—forcing every business and public space to comply. • Violate the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children and make decisions about their care, education, and well-being without government interference. HB25-1312 is an unconstitutional assault on parental rights and must be stopped. This is a dangerous bill. The government must be stopped from turning loving parents into criminals for refusing to conform to state-imposed ideology. Protect Colorado families before it's too late by VOTING NAY/NO on passage of HB25-1312. ADDITIONALLY, The Colorado Catholic Conference (CCC) calls on Catholics across the state to take action and

	testify in opposition to House Bill 25-1312, which is scheduled for a hearing on Wednesday, April 30. I will extend that call to all Colorado Assembly Republicans and Democrats- thereby, preventing passage of this terrible bill. The bill seeks to expand legal protections for transgender individuals across several Colorado statutes. However, the CCC warns that such changes would come at the expense of parental rights and First Amendment rights, if HB25-1312 is passed. According to the CCC, HB25-1312 could have serious consequences for Colorado families, as well as religious organizations and institutions, including Catholic schools — potentially forcing parents to lose custody rights over trans-identifying children. "This bill would compromise the ability of parents to make decisions regarding their children and infringe on the rights of faith- based institutions to operate in accordance with their deeply held religious beliefs," the CCC said in an official statement, and I am of the same opinion. The CCC emphasizes the importance of defending the constitutional rights of all Coloradans while standing firm in the Church's commitment to truth, parental authority and religious liberty. I, as a member of Christ First Community Church of Canon City, Colorado, am of the same opinion. AND FINALLY, This attempted destruction of the morals of our society through the EBT Agenda, must be stopped now, or there will be no sustainable structure for the future generations, generations of our/your children and grandchildren. I encourage all Democrats & Republicans to vote NAY/NO on passage of HB25-1312 today... Vicki Stermitz 1320 Rudd Ave Canon City, CO 81212

Laura Schulhof Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Carolyn Wolvin Against themselves	Dear Colorado Leaders, I strongly urge you to oppose HB25-1312. This is in direct opposition of our First Amendment right of religious liberty, parental authority and the freedom to live and speak openly and in accordance with biblical truth. This bill proclaims to protect children when in fact it puts them directly in harms way. Children are vulnerable to the teachings from their teachers and schools. A loving parent understands authentic feeling of their children. Sometimes they love their mom or dad so much, that they may for a time think that they wish that they were the same sex as the parent they so dearly love. It is more often than not a phase, a misunderstanding of childhood when these feelings occur. Does this mean that a teacher and school should jump on this and promote this confusion? Absolutely NOT. Parents have the right and the obligation to raise their children according to their beliefs, not the states. The state should not have a say in the child's name or "preferred " gender. A child may seriously believe that they are Batman, or a dog, or any other character. My son thought that he had a frog living in his mouth. He grew out of it, He is now a comedian and may decide to use this in a joke but it wasn't the truth. Should I have encouraged him to believe that not only did frog live in his mouth but to believe that he actually was a frog? You may think that this is absurd but so is the idea that any child going through a phase of development should be encouraged by rational, loving parents, and others in authority to believe their feelings instead of facts.

	You were not elected to use the constituents as experiments in your social ideology. You are to keep us safe, provide well maintained roads, keep from raising taxes as you please, and keep from oversizing government. You are failing at all of those. Families, husbands and wives, children are constantly under attack from our elected officials in Colorado. It is time to stop this madness. Protect children, families, and marriage. By doing this you will make Colorado stronger and that would be something to be proud of.
Olga Rubashka Against themselves	My name is Olga Rubashka, and I am a parent, a Coloradan, and a follower of Jesus Christ. I am writing to strongly oppose House Bill 25-1312. While I believe in showing compassion and dignity to all people, including those who identify as transgender, this bill goes too far in stripping away the fundamental rights of parents and undermining the biblical and biological understanding of human identity. As a parent, it is my God-given responsibility to guide, protect, and raise my children according to our values, our faith, and what we believe is best for their mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. HB25-1312 threatens that role by introducing language that could label my loving, careful guidance as “coercive control” simply because I don’t affirm my child’s claimed gender identity without question. If I refer to my daughter as “she” or use the name I gave her at birth out of love and conviction, this bill could be used against me in a custody dispute. That is not protection — that is coercion. From a biblical perspective, God created us male and female — wonderfully and purposefully. This foundational truth isn’t rooted in hatred, but in love, design, and order. To teach my children otherwise would be to abandon my faith and to dishonor God’s design for them. HB25-1312 compels not only silence, but participation in a worldview that directly contradicts my conscience and deeply held beliefs. Furthermore, as a parent, I know how easily influenced children are. They are impressionable, still learning, still growing. Their identities should not be shaped by fleeting feelings or social trends, especially when encouraged by adult authorities or peer pressure. They need safe, stable, loving homes where parents are free to ask questions, guide decisions, and even disagree — all without fear of losing them to the state. This bill promotes an ideology that demands unconditional affirmation of gender identity without considering the long-term consequences, psychological complexity, or the developmental needs of the child. It removes thoughtful, prayerful parenting and replaces it with state mandates. I urge our lawmakers to consider the irreversible damage that could be done by denying parents their rightful place and responsibility. Please oppose HB25-1312 and stand up for parental rights, religious freedom, and the truth that children need

	parents who love them enough to speak hard truths with grace — not just go along with what feels good in the moment. Sincerely, Olga Rubashka Divide, Colorado Parent and Advocate for Biblical Truth and Parental Rights
Jenna Gall Against themselves	Hello, I'm writing to you today to oppose Bill HB25-1312 in Colorado. I don't even know where to begin. Reading over the bill and seeing that children can be taken away if the parents "misgender" or "deadname" them is pure ridiculous. You are taking away our constitutional rights as the parents for a reason that has no basis in reality. Children are not being protected. Children need to be guided by not what they feel but in the truth. Girls are girls and boys are boys. I'm dumbfounded that this even has to be a conversation about children to our elected leaders. Children who are indoctrinated in the trans movement are more likely to commit suicide, have higher rates of anxiety and higher rates of depression. Even if the people around them support their decision. More and more of our children are confused and no one is leading them in the right direction. You are taking away the parent's rights to educate and raise our children how we see fit and puts the power in the hands of the government. The government should not be raising our children or teaching them any of this insane ideology.
Amy Gentile Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love.

	This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Kayla Greenwood Against themselves	Allowing this bill to pass will inevitably strip our society of its most vital asset, the family unit. Not only is it the role of parents to protect their children but it is their responsibility to raise their children into upstanding and responsible citizens. Passing this bill would not protect children, it would utterly expose them. It would expose them to make decisions for situations they are utterly incapable of handling in a way that is stable and appropriate for their stage of development. Situations that wouldn't just impact the now, but could potentially be catastrophic to their futures and the generational future of this state and ultimately this country. This country and state has for generations been established on the foundations of family and the freedom upon which we can establish the most successful future. If this value wasn't the case, why does the state prolong foster to adoption cases in aims of reuniting biological families? Why do we have other protective boundaries in place such as the age to vote, drive, drink alcohol, etc. Passing this bill might seem like the best solution now, however, be assured the consequences of this decision in the months and years to come will far surpass the short term satisfaction this bill would bring. Drawing this line in the sand will inevitably force you to have to draw several other lines with it. Therefore in the best interest of our children and the future of our incredible nation, I have to do everything in my power to oppose this bill. The future of the land of the free and home of the brave hinges on it. Thank you.
Ashley Ruiz Against themselves	Members of the Senate, I am writing not only as a concerned parent, but a medical professional who is against HB25-1312. Children are not mentally capable of making life and body-altering decisions due to their brains not being completely developed. Specifically, the prefrontal cortex. This portion of the brain does not finish developing until a person's mid-to-late 20s. It is responsible for mental processes such as executive function (planning, decision-making, and impulse control) and emotional control. In adolescents in particular, this causes them to participate in more risk-taking behaviors, handle stress poorly, and have increased susceptibility to depression and anxiety (National Institute of Mental Health, 2023). Any of these can cause an adolescent to desire to be someone else, leading to gender dysphoria (GD). GD is a mental health disorder that requires psychiatric support (Garg, Elshimy, & Marwaha, 2023). It is NOT a physical disorder that requires permanently mutilating and changing a child's endocrine system by administering unnecessary hormones. Parents should not be punished for attempting to obtain psychiatric support for their child. Colorado does not allow children to purchase alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, or

	guns, or even vote due to being under a certain age. So how is it logical to allow them to dictate to their parents what unnecessary medical procedures and prescriptions they desire? This decision needs to be postponed until they are mentally capable of making such permanent choices (i.e. - their prefrontal cortex has had enough time to develop). This bill does not protect our children. It strips away parental rights, circumvents child protection laws, imposes gender ideologies on everyone, and attacks free speech and religious liberty. This bill targets a minority and does not represent what majority of Colorado parents' desire. Please consider how much harm and family separation this bill would bring upon innocent children, and vote AGAINST it. Sincerely, Ashley Ruiz, Certified Family Nurse Practitioner References: National Institute of Mental Health. (2023). The Teen Brain: 7 Things to Know. https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/the-teen-brain-7-things-to-know Garg, G., Elshimy, G., & Marwaha, R. (2023, July 11). Gender Dysphoria. National Library of Medicine. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK532313/
Karen Welch Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents?

	What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Jan Cross Against themselves	HB25-1312 is an assault on the freedoms that define Colorado. By forcing businesses, schools, and parents to adopt government-approved speech or face legal penalties, this bill chills free expression and silences dissent. Laws that punish honest disagreement are not protective—they are oppressive. For the sake of truth, freedom, and parental rights, I urge you to vote NO on HB25-1312.
Christina Adamson Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.

Douglas Howard Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Nicole Pilgrim Against themselves	I respectfully oppose HB25-1312, as I believe it represents an overreach of governmental authority and imposes burdensome regulations that may have unintended consequences for families, small businesses, and local communities. Legislation of this scope requires greater transparency, public input, and careful consideration of its long-term impacts. I urge lawmakers to prioritize policies that support individual rights and parental authority, rather than expanding state control in ways that risk undermining these fundamental values. Specifically, this bill will undermine parental rights, circumvent child protection laws, impose gender ideology in schools, and attack free speech and religious liberty.
Nicholas Beeson For themselves	When someone is asked to describe me, there are a littany of options they may choose. They might talk to my sense of humor, how techy I am, or something physical, like my facial hair or the hats I choose to wear. I've never had my entire identity as an individual boiled down to a singular thing, and too many people in our community have been diminished to a singular description. While our society remains heavily transfixed on how someone may display their gender identity, we've become decreasingly able to see some people than anything more than a label. Coloradoans are more than what they are called. Coloradoans deserve the same human dignity that is extended to their neighbors, regardless of

	their self expression. It's our duty as fellow citizens to be accepting of each person's individuality, celebrate it, and defend it.
Karr Golightly For themselves	As a trans person living and working in Denver, I am in strong support of this bill. Trans people (especially children and teens) are significantly more likely to die by suicide due to not having the social support and other resources they need. This bill gives trans kids the chance to grow up, with structures that will help them not just express who they are but be protected from adults who should know better but like to masquerade as "increasing safety" while actually perpetuating harm and encouraging hate. I wasn't given the chance to be out as trans when I was a kid because it wasn't safe enough, and I hope we can allow future generations of trans kids the gift of being themselves and staying alive by passing this bill.
Courtney Hetts Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Andrew Forcina Against themselves	Please Vote NO on HB25-1312 Dear Senator,

	Thank you for your service. Our family are constituents and residents of Denver, Colorado. As a parent and person of faith, I do not support HB25-1312. This bill undermines parental rights, compels speech in a way that violates the First Amendment, and pushes sensitive conversations away from families and into the hands of the state. I believe parents, not the government, are best equipped to guide their children through important issues. This bill ignores that truth. I respectfully urge you to Vote NO on this measure and protect both families and freedoms in Colorado. Sincerely, Andrew Forcina
Christy Anderson Against themselves	Thank you for taking comments from an educator on this bill. As a teacher of young students since 2000, this bill is more than an egregious overreach. It seems as though the people that are shoving this through have never been in a classroom or are parents. How can a parent to another parent say, I am taking your rights away from you. As a teacher, I knew that it would be tough. However, why do we constantly make teachers' jobs unmanageable. Who are you to say that, I as a teacher need to have these most controversial conversations with my students? I am a respected educator in our district and stand for what is right and true. I have had nothing but high effective evaluations and some of the highest scores in our district. I am not hired to determine what a child's gender or political belief is. Who do you think you are?? It is time to stand back and let the people that are in the trenches with our students daily take a stand. Have you ever looked at our mental health? Our kids are hurting, have you ever though, "Hmmm...maybe it is because we are causing it??" Students DO NOT need to be worried about this on top of academics. Try caring as much for the academic success of students as you do pushing your gross agendas upon public schools. It is decisions like this that will turn public schools into further ruin. If I can lose my job over NOT lying to families, who in their right mind is going to stay??? Teaching is difficult without this complete nonsense! Take a look in the mirror and ask yourself, why do I care so much about everyone's kids? Why can't I just stay in my lane and help instead of cause complete unrest? Stay in your lane for what the people "hired" you for. How about you fund education, not agendas!!
Margaret Willis Against themselves	Testimony in Opposition to HB25-1312 Margaret Helena Willis 4/29/2025 Before the Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

	Thank you for the opportunity to provide my written testimony today. My name is Margaret Willis, and I respectfully, but firmly, voice my opposition to House Bill 25-1312. This bill represents a dangerous shift in authority—away from parents and toward the state. It seeks to undermine the God-given responsibility of parents to raise, guide, and make critical decisions for their own children. That responsibility is not granted by the government—it is entrusted by God. As a person of faith, I must begin with the biblical foundation for my concern. Scripture is unequivocal: parents are called to train up their children (Proverbs 22:6), to teach them diligently the ways of God (Deuteronomy 6:6–7), and to care for them as stewards of a divine trust. Nowhere in Scripture is this responsibility assigned to civil authorities. HB25-1312 violates that principle by placing the state in a position of authority it was never meant to occupy. Beyond the biblical concern, this bill is also a violation of basic constitutional rights. Parents have the fundamental liberty to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their children, a liberty that has been consistently affirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States. Government intervention should only occur in cases of clear abuse or neglect—not because a parent chooses a different path than what a bureaucracy deems acceptable. HB25-1312 opens the door to coercion, discrimination against people of faith, and the erosion of parental trust in public institutions. This is not hypothetical. These policies have real consequences for families who are trying to live according to their deeply held convictions, including their biblical faith. This bill does not honor family, freedom, or faith. It undermines all three. I respectfully urge this body to reject HB25-1312 and stand for the rights of parents, the integrity of the family, and the biblical principle that authority begins in the home—not in the halls of government. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Christopher Robisch For himself	Dear Legislators, As a concerned citizen and the parent of a transgender child, I am writing to respectfully urge your support for HB 25-1312. This bill is critical to safeguarding the physical, emotional, and mental health of transgender youth across Colorado. Its provisions regarding parenting decisions, custody arrangements, and school-based protections will ensure that the best interests of transgender children are properly recognized and upheld.

	At a time when legislative efforts across the country increasingly seek to undermine the rights of transgender individuals, it is imperative that Colorado stands firm in its commitment to equality and human dignity. Bills such as HB 25-1312 are not only measures of protection but are essential to ensuring the very existence, safety, and well-being of my child and all transgender people within our state. I respectfully request that you vote in favor of this legislation to affirm Colorado's dedication to fairness, inclusion, and the protection of vulnerable communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Breanna Elikson Against themselves	I wish to testify against this new law for the safety of my child and others everywhere from being manipulated and coerced to leave their families. No child is born in the wrong body; especially if said child is younger than the age of 18.
Danielle Kuhlmann Against themselves	I am requesting that our voices be heard on this bill. There is not a reason in this world that is valid enough to support mandating this type of acceptance for a personal decision. There is too much information out there that shows how detrimental some of the laws that have already been passed are to our children, and this will only muddy the waters more and create more areas where control is exhibited where there shouldn't be. Please use common sense and support the people of the state. I have not spoken to one person who supports this bill yet somehow this stuff keeps passing. You are losing the trust of the residence of Colorado and I am asking that you do the right thing and leave this off the table.
Jennifer Barrios Against themselves	My name is Jennifer Barrios and I implore you to vote no on this bill as it will endanger our youth. I am a stepmother to a son who was caught up in figuring out his sexual preferences in high school. I do not doubt for one moment that many of the ideas that plagued him not only were due to being bullied for his more artistic nature, but peer pressure and ideas promoted in school that demean parents and their beliefs. This pressure was not found among students, but adults! Moises's friend's mother explained to us that there was nothing wrong with what he was doing. Moises started experimenting with his hair, clothing and makeup or activities considered more feminine. My husband and I sought advice outside of our faith beliefs. Three, let me repeat that - THREE psychologists and a SCHOOL social worker each told us to overlook this behavior.

	Not one of them thought of his long term welfare! Not one acknowledged that this could hurt Moises or lead him down a path of self destruction. If someone has a tendency towards theft, do you overlook that individual stealing money from you? In our situation, the advice we received basically stemmed from an attitude that Moises would grow out of this, or discover his sexual preferences arriving into adulthood. Not one person thought it would endanger him But things got worse if we looked the other way- Moises skipped classes, did not do classwork, and isolated constantly! Do you overlook negative attitudes or attention getting in any other scenarios? I am so furious at the kind of "professional advice" we received. Not one of these folks cared for Moises or what was happening to him, or that there was a cry for help! Moises did not know what to ask for, or how to address the things that were hurting him. We sought help to bring him out of isolation but instead he was further embanked in behavior that exploited him. Things did not get better! Moises barely graduated and the isolation increased. At 18 he called my husband to say he chose to be homosexual. My husband said he would always love him no matter the choices, but explained denying who he is would be more hurtful and harmful to him than beneficial. We reached out to Moises and helped him to get a car, even driving it to the state he lived. We did what we could to maintain good relationship with Moises, calling, having meals together, inviting him out, and going to see him. But Moises went through some very horrible difficulties, in part he was lulled into drugs with the boyfriends. When he finally hit his rock bottom, he came to his senses and said he needed out of this lifestyle that was destroying him. Thankfully he is still with us! But there is absolutely no reason that he had to go through more trauma than necessary! If only the things that were hurting him could have been addressed when he began exhibiting distress and thought he needed to pursue what was within the LGBTQ+ community. No thanks to any of these professionals. The affirmation of such identity fails to meet the real needs of a person. Instead of affirming delusions, we need to help folks address the heart issues head on and not some fantasy. Affirmations of falsehood only abandon one to further devastation! How sick and cruel! Love is truthful, not full of sidestepping or playing pretend. Listen to the plea of someone who saw firsthand how this endangered their loved one! Vote no on this bill rather than open up children to further devastation.

Ann Stookesberry Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Eli Skye For themselves	Hi there, my name is Eli Skye, I am a proud trans person, and I have been a constituent in Colorado for my whole life. I grew up in a community where being trans was not acceptable, was shameful, and was even a joke. I have fought so hard in my life to learn to love myself and be loved in my transness. And so I struggle to convey to you the sheer weight of grief I'm feeling as my and my community's safety is increasingly jeopardized in this country. Trans people deserve life saving health care. Trans people deserve access to public services. Trans people deserve to be treated with dignity. Now is a critical time for Colorado. We have often labeled ourselves a sanctuary for trans people, but now even in Colorado as a trans person I feel deeply afraid to apply to jobs, look for housing, have a family, and apply for public benefits as there are such little protections. And that is why I urge you to vote in support of HB25-1312 to protect me and my community. Don't let hate win!
Rachel Evans Against themselves	Dear Honorable Senate Judiciary Committee Members. I originally signed up to speak via Zoom at your committee meeting, but due to work requirements, I am unable to participate. Instead, I am using my lunch hour to humbly implore you not to support this bill. While the murder of Kelly Loving was

	horrific and should never have happened, this bill represents an egregious overreach by a state government into family affairs. It creates a potential slippery slope of overreach into the core of family structure so that the government can interfere with even families that are still together. It potentially opens the doors to attack even private religion-based schools, which should have the right in the State of Colorado to operate in a manner that most closely aligns with that school's belief system. This bill opens the door to penalize anyone who disagrees with the idea that there are more than two genders. Will Colorado criminalize thought crimes next, so that those who dissent are not even free in their own homes to disagree with the majority view? I would not support that frame of mind even if the shoe was on the other foot. The broad vocabulary of this bill is concerning. Please do not support this bill. Respectfully, Rachel Evans
Evan Cruz Against themselves	Thank you for this opportunity to testify AGAINST HB25-1312. I'm Evan De La Cruz. I've shared my testimony of the harm I experienced in the name of gender medicine. 14 years of injections, 5 surgeries in 1.5 years, removal of my healthy organs, and the damaging of my bowel. How these actions resulted in life threatening complications and life long consequences. I transitioned at 21 and I'm 39 now. This illness took 2 decades of my life from me. To truly comprehend that my gender identity disorder was actually a symptom and not the cause. Currently, I am having to process the regret of transitioning and the medical malpractices I suffered at the hands of those who promised to do no harm. I give intention and purpose to this pain everyday, so that the weight of my choices can not crush me. I suffered severe mental distress over the past 2 decades and gender affirming medicine only exacerbated my illnesses, which aligns with the evidence. I'm still not okay, but I am a woman and that means I am resilient. I consider myself a survivor of America's cultural psychosis. Of it's egregious medical malpractices, cognitive dissidents to truth and evidence, and an alarming lack of interest in Mental Wellness. Under this bill parent's wouldn't be able to protect their children from this assault either. Why would our response, as the adults here, to a child's fleeting attention, be met with such permanence? We know better than that. We must stop celebrating illness and prevent the legalization of disassociating the vulnerable and no longer promote the sterilization and mutilation of American children. This bill, if passed, will guarantee a place for every child in Colorado, including yours, to be placed directly in the path of harm's way. I'm pleading with

	you to Please vote NO on HB25-1312. Protect Colorado's children and their families. Protect our future. Thank you.
Jeff Ayon Against themselves	Parents are given a responsibility to their children, It is not up to the children to decide what gender they are or are not, that was decided at birth and out of both parents and the child's control. God in his sovereignty, picked the perfect gender for that child. The state has no right to supersede the Creator and override parental responsibility by supporting children in making poor choices at this stage of their life. Statistic show they will regret in the future. Not to mention, the fiduciary responsibility that the state is taking at the expense of taxpayers to allow children to make these poor choices that will alter them for the rest of their life.
Amanda Levy For themselves	Dear Honorable Members of the Committee, I am a master's student in mental health writing in strong support of House Bill 25-1312, the Kelly Loving Act, which strengthens legal protections for transgender individuals in Colorado. This bill is a vital step toward advancing health, safety, and equality for one of our most vulnerable communities. Numerous studies confirm what many of us already understand: when transgender individuals are affirmed in their identities and protected under the law, their mental and physical health outcomes improve significantly. HB25-1312 does precisely that. By recognizing misgendering, deadnaming, and the threat of disclosing gender-affirming care as forms of coercive control in family law, the bill reduces harm and trauma often experienced in legal systems that fail to affirm transgender identities. Equally important, HB25-1312 ensures Colorado will not cooperate with out-of-state attempts to criminalize or penalize those who seek or provide gender-affirming care. This provision sends a powerful message: transgender people and their families are safe and welcome here. The ability to access necessary medical care without fear of legal retaliation is essential to well-being and can be lifesaving, especially for transgender youth. In schools and public spaces, affirming chosen names and pronouns isn't merely a matter of respect—it's directly linked to lower rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide among transgender individuals. When policies reflect people's lived realities, we create environments where health can flourish. The opposition would rather exacerbate the suffering of these people which, when considering the effects of suicide on families, puts all Coloradans at risk.

	HB25-1312 is not just a legal measure; it is a easy, common sense public health intervention. It upholds the fundamental rights of transgender Coloradans and helps build a society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Thank you for your leadership and for standing on the side of health, dignity, and justice. I urge you to vote yes on HB25-1312.
Peter LaChance For himself	My name is Peter (he/they) and I am transgender. I support the Kelly Loving Act, and I ask that you extend your support as well. This bill will save children (as much as the opposition will insist that it actually destroys them), and protect the transgender community in ways that we need now more than ever. I have listened to the opposition during previous hearings, and if there is anything I could say to those parents who spoke against the bill, it is this: I am incredibly grateful that you were not my parent. I was fortunate enough to have a supportive mother growing up. That isn't to say she didn't make mistakes. We're all human, and I would never expect perfection. This bill doesn't require perfection from parents either. That's why giving these terms (deadnaming, misgendering) definitions is so important. It allows for genuine mishaps and gives room to grow and learn. What this bill does is protect transgender individuals, both child and adult. Using the correct pronouns, the preferred name, and respecting someone's ability to explore gender and identity have been proven in many scientific studies to reduce mental health issues and negative outcomes for trans people. The opposition loves to bring up the Cass Review, but I encourage everyone to look further into the criticisms of that review. These criticisms come from across the globe. Organizations and experts strongly stand in support for gender-affirming care. This care is not limited to hormone therapy and surgery (which the opposition loves to dramatically call "mutilation" in order to sway opinion). This is care that includes using someone's name and pronouns. This is care that includes respect. To those who oppose this bill, I have some requests: please do not be stagnant in your beliefs. Please learn and grow, acknowledge that you may have been wrong, and learn to love your community members who you might not fully understand. I hope your children are not trans so that they are spared your behavior, but more than that I hope you change your mind. I hope you can create a home that it welcoming for any child so that they may grow into a happy, healthy adult.
Regan Sanders For himself	Thank you for hearing testimony concerning this house bill. As we are currently facing a federal crisis regarding the protection of transgender individuals, it is absolutely necessary that those at the state level ensure that their constituents are safe and protected from harmful policies. Trans folks, particularly

	children, deserve safe, loving environments where their guardians are their advocates and they are able to access whatever care they need.
Lisa Banks Against themselves	Dear Senators and Governor Polis, I am Writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you—do not destroy freedom in Colorado! This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday, silencing the voices of concerned Coloradans and cutting off critical debate. That alone should raise alarms about the process. Even more concerning is that this bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children. Parents—not the government—know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are best equipped to make decisions about their children’s well-being. This bill tramples constitutional rights and turns loving parents into criminals simply for protecting their children. We are not criminals. We are parents. This bill doesn’t just target parents—it threatens every Colorado school, business, and public institution by forcing them to comply with government-mandated speech and ideology. Under HB25-1312, using a child’s given name or acknowledging biological sex could trigger lawsuits, loss of custody, or civil penalties. Schools would be forced to hide gender identity changes from parents. Businesses—including faith-based organizations—would be compelled to affirm ideas they do not believe, or face legal action. This is not protection—it is coercion. HB25-1312’s vague, broad language will create fear, confusion, and the tragic destruction of families. It will chill free speech, force ideological compliance, and pit the state against its own citizens. Colorado citizens should never fear government retaliation for speaking biological truth or standing by their convictions. For the sake of our families, our schools, our businesses, and the future of Colorado, I respectfully urge you: stand for parental rights, protect freedom, and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Karin Nance Against themselves	Threatening parental custody for not affirming a gender identity that is other than the child’s biological gender is a crime against children and should be illegal. Telling a child that they can be a gender other than what they are born with is lying and encourages mental illness, which is child abuse. Anyone making laws that go behind the back of loving parents and encouraging this behavior, not to mention surgical procedures encouraging this behavior, is also for mentally ill people. I’m confident that eventually, the truth will come out of how horribly abusive it is to all families to

	encourage this irreversible damage. Be ready to face the true results of anyone who supports such criminal acts.
Matt Boatwright Against himself	The proposed law outlined in HB 25-1312 is an abomination. The bill is designed to forcibly transfer custody of the most fragile children from their parents to the state. The bill deviously characterizes a parent's loving guidance and instruction as "coercive control," while itself conferring authority upon the state to impose a perverse morality upon families by means of coercion. The bill codifies the process of state-sanctioned kidnapping: a vulnerable child is groomed by a deviant, the parents object, and the state kidnaps the child under color of law, delivering the child to the deviant. In voting to support this abomination, the state's "representatives" have sent a message to the parents of Colorado: you will consent to the corruption of your children, or we will take them from you. A vote for this bill delivers authority into the hands of those who would deprive children not only of their parents, but of their innocence. That cannot stand.
Laura Higgins Against himself	Thank you for reading my testimony. I write you today in support of a no vote against HB25-1312. While it's described as a bill to protect children with gender dysphoria, I believe it actually undermines the rights of parents, who are best equipped to care for their children. I'm concerned about the potential devastating consequences for Colorado families, particularly those already struggling with vulnerable children and complex family issues. HB25-1312 could be used as a custody weapon, allowing a child's identity and sexuality to be exploited in court. Current laws protect children from abusive parents, and a wait-and-see approach with regard to gender dysphoria is not child abuse. In fact, it is well-documented that as many as 80% of children who identify as trans outgrow these feelings in adulthood. Parents know their children best and there simply is not enough good medical or psychological evidence to date that justifies a bill as extreme as HB25-1312. This bill not only undermines the rights of parents but also seriously violates the 1st Amendment by threatening the free expression of traditional Christian, Jewish, and Muslim views on human identity. These families have the right to raise their children within the values and culture of their own homes without the threat of government overreach. The Supreme Court has consistently upheld the protection of even unpopular speech, as seen in the 1977 National Socialist Party v. Village of Skokie decision. Please vote NO and carry on this uniquely American ideal today. While I understand the intentions behind HB25-1312 come from a place of compassion and concern for vulnerable children, I believe it will only divide families and infringe on the rights of others. I implore you to consider the potential consequences and vote against this bill.

	Laura Higgins Senate District 26
John Crowe For themselves	Hello, and thank you for considering passage of the Kelly Loving Act. This bill will go a long way to make our trans neighbors in Colorado be and feel more safe in public spaces. Trans folks are important members of a vibrant society! By protecting folks (adults and children alike) from coercion in places of law, work, and school we are upholding some of the most basic civil liberties that cis-gendered folks, such as myself, take for granted. It is hard to listen to the challenges of dehumanization faced by trans folks online and in my friend groups as well. People are scared. It affects their ability to work, their health, and their relationships. This bill would be a step to address these real problems for our neighbors. Thank you and I hope you vote in favor of this bill. John Crowe Colorado Springs
Jayd Flotte For themselves	My name is Jayd. I'm 30 years old. I'm a transnonbinary person. My pronouns are they/them Publically I've been out as queer for just 5 years. My government name is not Jayd. My parents never called me by my government name, so I've always had 2,3, or 4 names: my legal name, the nickname my parents called me, and the nicknames my friends, and bullies, called me. Now I am afraid to change my legal name. I'll tell you why. Because all our data is being scraped over with no oversight by the richest man in the world who is a father to 14 children. One of them is a 21 year old trans woman. Elon Musk misgendered his child and said "My son is dead, killed from the woke mind virus." There is a problem with this statement. Because trans kids are dying at alarming rates. Zero kids have been killed by the "woke mind virus," which I can only assume refers to a culture of kindness and acceptance, DEIA education also known as

	"teaching people how to care for one another," and small increases in Trans representation in the media. Trans kids are dying at an alarming rate because trans people actually die from suicide (and violence) at high rates. I'm going to quote Dr. Ronita Nath (she/her), Vice President of Research at The Trevor Project, talking about a study of 61,000 youth published in September 2024: "This groundbreaking study offers robust and indisputable evidence to support what we have already known: the recent wave of anti-transgender laws in the United States is quite literally risking the lives of young people across the country. From a scientific perspective, studying the phenomenon of how these policies impact LGBTQ+ young people's mental health is relatively new. In our analysis of data collected from more than 61,000 transgender and nonbinary youth across five years, this study critically confirms – for the first time – a causal relationship between anti-transgender laws and heightened suicide risk among transgender and nonbinary young people. The study's findings demonstrated a significant increase in suicide attempts among all participants whose home state had enacted at least one anti-transgender law. The highest increase in suicide attempt rates – ranging from 7% to 72% — was reported among participants younger than age 18. Across the full sample of transgender and nonbinary young people ages 13-24, an increase in suicide attempt rates of 38% to 44% was observed." We need to keep our kids alive long enough for their parents and chosen family to love them. Everyone should experience the love and support that I have. If you agree with me that things have gone too far in the direction of hatred and unaccountable power, please vote in support of this bill. It will add years to the lives of trans people and add life to our years. My mom is a Christian Catholic woman who loves and supports her trans child. I am lucky. My dad would have been proud of me if he was still alive. I will tell you my dad was also Catholic and felt great shame and disappointment for the harm & violence church leaders preyed upon children. If we continue to do the difficult cultural work within ourselves and our communities, I believe we can also add life to the years of those who stand in opposition of this bill today who mistakenly believe in the limits their own humanity, and the love and support they can show themselves and others.
Lindsay Mills Against themselves	Any law that takes rights away from parents is fundamentally and morally wrong.

Meribeth Amundson Against themselves	Dear Senators and Governor Polis, I am Writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you—do not destroy freedom in Colorado! This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday, silencing the voices of concerned Coloradans and cutting off critical debate. That alone should raise alarms about the process. Even more concerning is that this bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children. Parents—not the government—know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are best equipped to make decisions about their children’s well-being. This bill tramples constitutional rights and turns loving parents into criminals simply for protecting their children. We are not criminals. We are parents. This bill doesn’t just target parents—it threatens every Colorado school, business, and public institution by forcing them to comply with government-mandated speech and ideology. Under HB25-1312, using a child’s given name or acknowledging biological sex could trigger lawsuits, loss of custody, or civil penalties. Schools would be forced to hide gender identity changes from parents. Businesses—including faith-based organizations—would be compelled to affirm ideas they do not believe, or face legal action. This is not protection—it is coercion. HB25-1312’s vague, broad language will create fear, confusion, and the tragic destruction of families. It will chill free speech, force ideological compliance, and pit the state against its own citizens. Colorado citizens should never fear government retaliation for speaking biological truth or standing by their convictions. For the sake of our families, our schools, our businesses, and the future of Colorado, I respectfully urge you: stand for parental rights, protect freedom, and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Cristina Trapani-Scott For themselves	I am voicing my support for HB25-1312. Our transgender youth must be protected from groups who seek to politicize children for nothing more than political platforming. We need to protect the rights of parents who want nothing more than to love and protect their children. This is not about ideology. This is about children and their right to be who they are without fear. This is about protecting parents rights to let their children be who they are and to support that. This is about empathy and understanding. I have seen the way children are being politicized under

	this administration. The opposition is not protecting anyone. They are harming LGBTQ people, especially the young people. Children want to feel safe and protected. Attacking their identities and their choices does not make them safe. Please support this bill and protect and support transgender children and their families.
Carla Buretz Against themselves	Dear Senators and Governor Polis, I am Writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you—do not destroy freedom in Colorado! This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday, silencing the voices of concerned Coloradans and cutting off critical debate. That alone should raise alarms about the process. Even more concerning is that this bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children. Parents—not the government—know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are best equipped to make decisions about their children’s well-being. This bill tramples constitutional rights and turns loving parents into criminals simply for protecting their children. We are not criminals. We are parents. This bill doesn’t just target parents—it threatens every Colorado school, business, and public institution by forcing them to comply with government-mandated speech and ideology. Under HB25-1312, using a child's given name or acknowledging biological sex could trigger lawsuits, loss of custody, or civil penalties. Schools would be forced to hide gender identity changes from parents. Businesses—including faith-based organizations—would be compelled to affirm ideas they do not believe, or face legal action. This is not protection—it is coercion. HB25-1312's vague, broad language will create fear, confusion, and the tragic destruction of families. It will chill free speech, force ideological compliance, and pit the state against its own citizens. Colorado citizens should never fear government retaliation for speaking biological truth or standing by their convictions. For the sake of our families, our schools, our businesses, and the future of Colorado, I respectfully urge you: stand for parental rights, protect freedom, and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Ryland Squier Against themselves	The bill that lies before you restricts the freedom of speech and the rights of parents in an attempt to make children feel free to make decisions. First, since when do we allow (let alone, protect!) the decisions of children? There is a reason we give parents

	this responsibility. If children are not protected from themselves, they make decisions which alter their lives in permanente ways. But, this bill also reveals something deeper. A truth can stand up to a thousand lies simply because it is true. If a parent told their child that we travel best by walking on our hands, the child would prove the parent wrong by walking on his or her feet. If the child belongs to a gender or has a name contrary to the desires of the parent, they would prove this by producing offspring or through their engagement with the culture. The fact is, we are trying to protect something that may or may not even be true. This means that the government is scared about the child's belief being put to the test. You want to know what is the most scary? Being wrong, and having no one willing to correct.
Thomas UEBBING Against themselves	Applying common sense and experience, federal laws and state laws recognize the cognitive and emotional development of minors and young people. For example, ten year olds are not allowed to vote. Statutory rape is sexual intercourse with a minor with or without the minors's consent. Twelve year olds are not allowed to drive a vehicle. Seventeen year olds are not allowed to consume alcoholic beverages. And U.S. senators must be at least 30 years of age, having presumably attained mature judgment, reasoning and important life experiences. Curiously, in matters of sex and sexuality in some political quarters and social movements, common sense is thrown aside and personal autonomy is idolized to the peril of a minor's welfare. With state approval, minors are allowed to make decisions and take actions objectively harmful to themselves. They are allowed to falsify personal and historical facts regarding biological reality in state records and with state recognition. What is so sacrosanct about gender identity that legislators would compel parents to affirm gender dysphoria but NOT anorexia? In the case of gender dysphoria, the person's acceptance of his or her biological reality is contrary to that reality and in the case of anorexia the person's acceptance of his or her biological reality is contrary to that reality. The difference lies not in objective reality and the child's welfare but in ideology that blinds one to reality, the belief that a psychological state of mind trumps biological reality and that biological reality can be altered by hormonal, cosmetic and surgical interventions. However, science shows that only appearances can be altered, not the essence of sexual biological reality as evidenced by XX or XY chromosomes throughout the body.

	In the long run to not live and act in accordance with one's reality, one's given nature, ultimately ends in unhappiness and frustration. If you don't believe that, try pumping diesel into the fuel tank of your gasoline engine powered car because "your personal autonomy" gives you "the right" to do so, a right that "no one can take away from you," never mind the nature of gasoline engines and the design fixed by the engine's creator. The territory of the United States was first settled by Native Americans, then by the Spanish, French, English and Russian (Alaska) colonizers. These were passing circumstances. The English colonizers achieved domination. The State of Colorado is also a passing circumstance, no different than New France in North America (1534-1763). This is the long view. But all this time, there was the timeless reality of parents and children and parents exercised their authority that flowed from their responsibility for having brought forth their children into this world, children dependent on them for their sustenance, education and guidance. The State of Colorado, therefore must not interfere in parents' responsibility to guide their children in the acceptance of their biological sexual reality. —Thomas Uebbing, Denver
Eric Purcell Against themselves	I understand that this bill considers speaking the truth about someone's gender to be "coercive control" and tantamount to child abuse to minors, allowing the state to steal the children of truthful adults. This is wrong and must not be allowed to pass. Every person has the right to speak the truth, and Holy Scripture in fact demands it. We answer to that higher Authority and we will all have to give an account for every flippant word we speak, no matter how well intentioned. The state has no right to demand that we must adhere to the lies of a false ideology. It takes no argument, no revelation of God, and no education to see the plain truth that men cannot be women and women cannot be men. Gender is a brute fact, a tautology, a self evident truth and is not distinct from biological sex
Erin Wilder For themselves	HB25-1312, or the Kelly Loving Act, is a major step forward in the protection of trans individuals of all ages, but children in particular. In my life I have been witness to many cases of deadnaming and misgendering of those I care about in situations within colleges and doctor's offices, places that said people have preferred names or sometimes even legal names on record already. Be it ignorance or malice, having

	legal protections would be a huge step towards making transgender individuals feel comfortable in a difficult world that often seeks to illegitimize them. The state of Colorado already has many institutions protection and aiding transgender individuals, so half measures are not enough. Locations like Denver Health are shining examples of what should be the standard for transgender care and respect. Extending this to all institutions in Colorado is the next logical step. Additionally, the Kelly Loving Act seeks to help protect innocent children who just want to be themselves. Instead of how schools often force children to adhere to standards they may not fit in, giving children the autonomy to decide who they are and what they want goes hand in hand with the very definition of the education system. Are these years not for the exploration of being human, and expressing one's must true self in a safe environment for learning? If we raise children without recognizing their desires as individuals, we only condemn them to a life unfulfilled. A younger fellow student of mine personally has suffered greatly from having to hide their identity from their peers and parents due to the lack of support the system has. I don't want to see other children forced into the same fate. I care about the marginalized communities in Colorado who suffer every day from not having legal protections supporting their existence. I sincerely hope that all present have the same care as well. We are all part of the state of Colorado's community, and I hope that the state government sees transgender individuals as part of that community as well. Thank you. Erin Wilder
Lolita Valento Against themselves	Kelly Loving was murdered by a non-binary individual who had a very messed up family background. Stop pretending ordinary people are harming transgender individuals, when the very incident the legislature is memorializing with this bill is the result direct hatefulness of one LGBTQ individual against another LGBTQ individual. This bill will wreck families and cause all sorts of pain for children by destroying the family unit in deference to the state's dangerous, harmful gender ideology. The only coercive control involved in this bill is the state's coercion of Colorado parents to violate their own conscience in the act of protecting and safely raising their own children.

Jane Colon-Bonet For themselves	Madam Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present to you today. My name is Jane Colon-Bonet and I am here to support this bill because I have worked as a teacher and seen firsthand the necessity for protection of trans youth and trans identities in general. When I got my first job out of college as a youth theater instructor, I didn't intend to come out to my employer as non-binary until I was certain my identity would be safe and welcome. This is something I have had to agonize over with every job I have ever worked, balancing my safety against the discomfort of being misgendered. This fear, however, went right out the window when I heard my employer discussing a student's trans identity with another teacher. I leapt out of the closet faster than I could think to offer my perspective and advice on how to handle that student's identity with care and consideration. From that point forward, I knew that I wanted to be out. Not for myself, but for my students. To show them that transgender people go through life the same as anyone else. That we laugh, we cry, and we grow older. That they would have a future no matter what their identity. Over the next years, I suffered greatly for my decision to be out. My employer gradually pressured me to cease all efforts I had been making to create a safe space for my students' identities. I was forbidden from asking my students' pronouns, reprimanded for sharing my own. I was told I had to out my students if they went by different names because of other states' laws. I was accused of manipulation, when all I had ever done was ask my students what made them the most comfortable. This treatment harmed my cisgender students as well. My employer insisted I force cisgender students to play characters of the opposite gender to match the script, even when they had voiced their desire not to do so. That lack of respect for the children's ability to know their own needs best harmed every child, not just the trans youth. I ended up leaving that position, even though I loved teaching, because the constant targeting by my employer became too much for me to bear. I knew it wasn't a safe place for me, and the saddest part was that I left knowing it wasn't a safe place for those kids, transgender or cisgender. That is why we need this bill. The safety and comfort of our children, all children of all identities, shouldn't be free for the taking for anyone who wishes to control them. It should be up to them, their lives should be their own, as should all of ours. Thank you.
Carl Rosa For themselves	As an individual who has interacted with a broad spectrum of gender identities, I would like to state that respecting gender identity is what is most advantageous to an individual.

	The American Psychological Association only cites social stigmas as a complication for gender dysphoria. " Transgender people suffer from high levels of stigmatization, discrimination and victimization, contributing to negative self-image and increased rates of other mental health disorders.¹⁵ Transgender individuals are at higher risk of victimization and hate crimes than the general public. Suicide rates among transgender people are markedly higher than the general population.¹⁶" Respecting their identities is supporting their health.
Scott Horak Against himself	One never knows their limits until they have been exceeded and then it's too late. HB25-1312 is Perjury by legislative commission. Fathers have the Rights to protect their children including but not limited to the parameters of healthcare, education, and Religion. In fact and truth gender affirming care is irreversible chemical castration of biological boys and sterilization of biological girls in childhood. Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse and Sterilization and their parents have the private right of action against the State. Freedom of Truthful Speech shall not be infringed and divorce courts, nonprofits and small businesses shall not be extorted by the State to purger innocent children into believing that they can actually change the sex that they created with at conception. The State should not be legislating irreversible and irreparable harm and forcing Colorado residents into lying by threatening their freedom. Shame on the Democratic Party of the Colorado General Assembly for legislating lies to harm children in childhood.
Bernadette Marquez Against herself	To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to express my deep concern and strong opposition to House Bill 25-1312. This bill, if passed, poses a serious threat to Colorado families and to the foundational rights of parents across our state. As Coloradans, we must stand united, regardless of political affiliation, to protect the essential role of parents in the lives of their children. I have been an educator for over 15 years, with a background in child development. My expertise and firsthand experience have shown me that young people from birth through age 25 require steady guidance and loving support to navigate life's complex and often overwhelming decisions. Scientific evidence confirms that the human brain is not fully developed until the age of 25. Add trauma, stress, or undiagnosed mental health conditions to the equation, and the need for strong familial guidance becomes even more critical. This bill dangerously undermines that principle by equating parental concern or disagreement with a child's stated gender identity with abuse and "coercive control." It opens the door for the state to override parental judgment, even in cases where parents are acting out of love, concern, and responsibility. If passed, it risks framing parental guidance as harmful and may result in families being torn apart, not for abuse or neglect, but for caring deeply and disagreeing.

	I recognize that identity is personal and can evolve. I have known people who have chosen different names and paths and I respect their journeys. I also understand that many children struggle to find their sense of self. I, too, took time to appreciate my given name and the roots it carries. That evolution came in adulthood at a time when I was mature enough to process my identity with clarity and independence. I am a mandated reporter. I have reported real abuse. It is often harder to remove a child from a genuinely dangerous situation than what this bill could allow for families who are simply not in agreement with a child's wishes. That is not safety that is government overreach. As a mother, educator, aunt, and future grandmother, I urge you to hear this plea: Honor the rights of families. Do not erode the critical role that parents play in shaping, guiding, and protecting their children. This bill is not about safety it's about control. It threatens the very core of parental responsibility and free speech. For the sake of our children, our families, and our freedoms, I respectfully ask that you do not allow House Bill 25-1312 to move forward. Deadname this bill and stand for the rights of Colorado families. Respectfully, Bernadette T. Marquez Lakewood, Colorado
Sonata Bravura For themselves	It is crucial to protect transgender people from harassment, endangerment, and increasingly severe out of state anti-transgender legislation. Colorado has both the interest and authority to protect its transgender citizens. As states across the country make it difficult or dangerous for transgender people to exist, Colorado increasingly becomes a desirable choice for transgender people to move to. The increased tax revenue and innovation from these new Colorado residents will help fund and improve the state, making our great state better for everyone - not just transgender people. Colorado becoming a sanctuary state will make it the most attractive state for transgender people, as those fleeing regressive states will no longer have to fear retribution from a government that wants to claw them back and charge them with crimes for existing. Thank you for your time.
Etta Sandry For	I am writing to express my strong support for the Kelly Loving Act. This bill will give crucial protections to transgender and gender non-conforming youth in their family settings and educational environments. It should be every person's right to choose

themselves	their gender identity and expression, regardless of the preferences of their parents or the regulations of school dress codes. In a moment when the rights of queer and transgender people are being threatened and stripped away, youth are particularly at risk of being prohibited from expressing their gender and living their lives in ways that are to them. Colorado should remain a safe haven for transgender and gender non-conforming youth. This bill will support the safety and rights of youth to make choices about their names, dress, and gender expression.
Cameron Williams For themselves	Yes I support this
Robin Robinson Against themselves	I am writing today in opposition to this bill. It is absurd for you supposedly representing me and all people of Colorado. You know this will only be causing many lawsuits and yet more taxpayer dollars to fight in the courts. This has nothing to do with the well fare of children. You are once again making a mockery of the people of this state. The days are coming when you will be held accountable for this disastrous bill. You are abusing the children of our state at their most vulnerable. It is sickening for the nation and the world to observe and laugh at in disgust. When even England recognizes truth but the legislators of Colorado won't the world laughs and says go smoke another one Colorado , that's why they call it dope.
Marla Benavides None Harmony Initiative Inc.	Que pasa, Colorado?" – Closing Testimony on HB25-1312 Marla Fatima Fernandez – Paralegal, Mediator, Mother _____ Madam Chair, Senators—thank you. I've heard the intention behind this bill, and I honor it. But for the record, I oppose HB25-1312 as written. Not because I oppose protecting people—but because I refuse to pass a bill that protects one group by putting others at risk of mislabeling, legal confusion, and family destruction. _____ Questions for the Committee: 1. What clear evidence will be required to prove coercive control? Is disagreement now abuse? 2. What protections exist for parents who are trying to support their child but disagree on how?

	3. Will the court consider religious, cultural, or language-based differences in parenting? 4. How do we prevent false allegations from being used in custody battles? 5. Can we define misgendering or deadnaming as harmful only when proven intentional and repeated—not accidental or faith-based? — Amendment Suggestions: - Clarify coercive control as intentional, repeated behavior that causes demonstrable harm—not isolated incidents or differing beliefs. - Add protections for parental due process, especially when custody decisions are involved. - Include a clause acknowledging that cultural or faith-based speech is not automatically coercion. **Create standards for how family courts assess claims under this law—not just opinions, but patterns and facts. - Ensure that this law protects the child without erasing the parent. — Final Statement: Let's not legislate based on fear or feelings alone. Let's legislate with clarity, truth, and love—for all Colorado families. Because que pasa, Colorado? We're better than this bill. Let's prove it. Gracias.
Ten Meis For themselves	One of four trans kids attempts suicide. This is not because they are mentally ill inherently as the opposition may say, because the study included investigating the reasons why. Those reasons are lack of support at home, or even blatant disrespect and abuse at home, as well as similar oppression at school with their teachers and peers. Opposition is concerned about parental rights! But what they're not concerned about is how they are treating their own child. We don't have to understand everything about another person in order to respect them. This bill simply asks that these parents respect their child by referring to them. The way that

	they ask. Their parental rights are not at risk. If they can simply do this one small thing to support their child. What opposition is really saying is that they don't care to respect their child. Unfortunately, trans kids, and trans people at large, have become a scapegoat in our country today. They say that we're evil, they say that we're delusional, but really we are just ourselves and we just want the freedom to do that. Just like any other American. We deserve safety, human rights, and care just like any other person. This bill has the potential to do a lot of positive things if passed. But the biggest and most important thing to me is the way that it will protect trans children. Remember how I said one and four trans kids attempt suicide? Remember how I told you that they've actually told us exactly why and it's because of the mistreatment they are subject to from those around them, including their parents? This bill can protect them from at least some of that mistreatment! This bill can reduce that one and four number! This bill can save lives. And that also means that it has the power just as strongly to cost wise. If you do not pass it. Please pass this bill.
Deb Marks Against themselves	House Bill 25-1 - 1312 is misleading - purports to impose extreme gender ideology in family courts, schools and public spaces. It threatens and undermines parental rights, undermines free speech and religious freedom, all of which are protected by our federal Constitution and/or existing law. In addition, this proposed law: Circumvents Child Protection Laws, barring recognition of out-of-state laws protecting minors from irreversible gender transitions, making Colorado a "sanctuary state" for such procedures. *Imposes Gender Ideology in Schools - mandating gender neutral dress codes and forces schools to affirm gender identity changes without parental consent. *Attacks Free Speech & Religious Liberty - criminalizing "deadnaming" and "Misgendering" under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act forcing compelled speech and penalizing dissent. *Government does not "own" our children. *US Department of Education issued a letter on 3/28/2025, Dear Colleague letter directing schools to comply with federal parental laws which include the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act that gives parents the right to inspect their children's school educational records and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment that gives parents the right to notice of surveys and the right to opt their children out. *Supreme Court Clah Over Parent's Religious Freedom and School Gender Curriculum - case to be heard in June. If this proposed law passes, there will undoubtedly be lawsuits filed on behalf of parents and their children.

	I urge the State of Colorado not to go down this path with our children - they do not belong to you. Sincerely, A Very Concerned Citizen and Registered Voter
Kelley Kellogg Against themselves	I vehemently oppose HB25-1312. Not only is it a violation of our first amendment rights and religious freedoms, but I believe it just plain evil. You can dress this bill up as "what's best for children," but the reality of the outcomes from this bill would be detrimental to children and their parents. The government is not the parent of children. This bill would allow children to make a life altering decision. This is reckless at best, but I feel it points to something far more insidious. As a former elementary school teacher and now a mother, I have spent my adult life around children. Children need guidance and boundaries. Most children let emotion, and not logic drive much of their behavior. Anyone who has ever fought a cranky child who is insisting that they are not tired at bedtime knows this to be true. A good parent does not give into their child's every emotional whim and should be the unwavering voice of reason. In fact, if a parent did give into their child's every whim, they would be deemed a bad parent. Furthermore, we don't allow children to gamble or drink for good reason—Their underdeveloped brains are likely to succumb easily to addiction. We also don't allow them to vote, and yet this bill wants to allow children, (the same ones we don't allow to make grown-up decisions in other life arenas) to make decisions about their gender and identity that could have negative implications far past childhood. What's even worse, this bill could take away parental involvement in this life altering decision and place it in the hands of our government—a government who does not know the child. Children confused about their gender undeniably need love and support to navigate such a trying time. I say who better than their parents who love them and have known them since their first breath? The research shows allowing a child with to go through puberty usually eliminates gender dysphoria. Putting kids on puberty blockers or doing surgeries can leave them with irreversible damage. There is data and countless stories from those who have detransitioned that show affirming gender dysphoria is often more harmful than helpful. I believe history will show that adults allowing and pushing this gender ideology onto children will be noted as one of the most egregious things to come out of our time. There are children in our state as we speak in real danger in abusive homes. I have seen and heard countless stories of kids being left in dangerous and detrimental situations, even after the state was involved. Yet, this bill wants to label parents as "unsafe" if they won't affirm their child's desires and potentially remove them from the home?! This discrepancy, in addition to the facts I laid out before, leads me to believe there is an insidious motive to this and makes me wonder why it is being pushed. I pray that God does not let this bill pass. If you vote yes and it passes, may God have mercy on your souls for the children who will be harmed by its passing.
Sparrow McKinney For	Hello my name is Sparrow and I'm a nonbinary Coloradan. I am testifying today to show my support for HB25-1312.

themselves	It has only been recently that I finally felt confident enough to use the name that I have preferred ever since I was little. I have felt more and more disconnected with my old name, but the name Sparrow feels more like me. The more people have used it, the more that my inner self is seen. I believe that every human has a right to determine their identity. The only thing we can control is ourselves, and having control over who we are and how we express ourselves is a fundamental part of being human. When a person exerts their control over someone's identity, or deliberately refuses to respect a person's identity, or punishes a person for how they identify, it is discrimination and dehumanization. The identity and autonomy of trans and nonbinary children and adults need to be protected, especially now. It's important to have protections in place for parents who want to support their child by getting them the healthcare they need without fear of losing their child. It's important to hold institutions like schools accountable to ensure that they respect the name and dress wear that a child prefers. It's important that it becomes an official act of discrimination under Colorado law to deliberately deadname and misgender a person in publishing materials. The hostility towards people who are trans or nonbinary is terrifying. Our rights and our existence is constantly under attack and up for debate. The federal government and organizations like "Moms for Liberty" are making it impossible for us to live and exist freely without fear of retaliation. This is why Colorado needs to step up and be the safe haven that trans and nonbinary folk deserve. If you care about life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, our core principles of our nation, then you will do the right thing and vote yes for HB25-1312.
Bethany Riggs Against themselves	My family and I vote NO NO NO to this bill!! This bill attacks parental rights, religious freedom, and the free speech of all Coloradans. It is an egregious NEXT STEP in the bold assault on parental rights in Colorado. This absolutely cannot be passed!
Tegan Raposa Against themselves	I am strongly against this bill, as the rights of parents and their choices as such with their own children should hold until the child is of legal age. There are so many things that a person cannot acquire (e.g. tattoo, cigarettes, body piercings) before the legal age of 18. So many decisions are left until adulthood and not put upon children for a reason - they cannot make decisions for themselves until their maturity reaches the relative standard of "legal age". Therefore, up until this point, it is the responsibility of parents to help children make decisions or to even make decisions for them if the situation requires. In no way, shape, or form is it a good idea to remove parental rights from our already vulnerable children. A parent's job is to protect and they have the right to raise their own children the way they see fit.

Justice Behrmann For themselves	I am a trans person living in Denver, and have been trans my whole life. I want support this bill.
Emily Hayden For themselves	Emily Hayden Regarding the Kelly Loving Act, HB25-1312 04/30/25 My name is Emily Hayden. I am a member of the LGBTQ+ community, a wife of a trans woman, and both a childcare worker and substitute teacher. Today I am testifying in support of the Kelly Loving Act, a bill that will protect the trans community in Colorado in ways that are vital, especially in the wake of the rampant onslaught of transphobic policies that have taken place over the United States and have continued to effect the most vulnerable of the queer population, our children. As the wife of a trans woman and member of the LGBTQ+ community, I have witnessed the collective mental health of our trans community and my trans loved ones suffer under Donald Trump's administration's attempts to discredit their existence and remove their protections and basic human rights. This is an administration who has proven they are comfortable dehumanizing a marginalized group and without a strong set of protections in Colorado, they will not be stopped. As a community and a state, we need to rally for our most vulnerable populations. We need to be a haven right now for those who have none. A child is a child, no matter their identity or how they choose to present themselves. They deserve to be protected. When I became a teacher, I took upon a personal vow to foster every child's growth in the way that makes best sense for that child. We don't choose the children we teach. We don't choose the children we bring into this world. What we do choose is how we respond to each individual child and their individual needs. You cannot will a child into being what you want them to be. They are who they are and to be loved, they need to be supported. Especially if they are queer. Especially if they are trans. In a time where trans existence is trying to being erased, please understand why the protections of the Kelly Loving Act are so vital. I'm sure many of you have heard the statistics of how trans affirming healthcare and transitioning socially positively affects individuals. What I will tell you is the experience of a trans child, based on knowing and loving a trans adult who was once a trans child, who could've come into her own in a much healthier and loving way if she had had these protections back then.

	In America right now, a trans child wakes up every day to a world where ignorant people in power try to discredit their existence and belittle their experiences. They are told this is a world that they cannot exist in. A child is told this and their own government reaffirms this. This is why trans children need our protection. In this world, support in who they are becoming is a lifeline. Respecting a preferred name is a lifeline. Choice of gender expression is a lifeline. A supportive parent is a lifeline. Keeping supportive families together is a lifeline. The Kelly Loving Act is a lifeline. I would like to thank the committees for hearing my written testimony. Your consideration and support of the Kelly Loving Act is of vital importance to trans coloradoans, especially trans children, and their livelihood and I hope that my testimony helps the committee understand that.
Amy Farrar For themselves	Please use your brains and stop the insanity. WTF? You have much bigger issues going on in this country. We shouldn't even be here. This shouldn't even be a question? Shame on you all. Be human again
Katie Behrmann For themselves	Trans people deserve protection like any other citizen with any other identity. A child seeking expression is not grounds for the state to remove a child from their parents. Colorado, please stay strong and enhance protections for the most vulnerable people in our society! Religious interference in people's rights is not ok!
Chelsey McNeil Against themselves	HB25-1312 Seriously undermines the rights of all Coloradans to speak the truth with freedom and conscience. Requiring others to abide by and cooperate with gender ideology in their language and communication is unconstitutional, illegal thought-policing, tantamount to creating a state-sponsored belief system that is totalitarian, anti-reality, and anti-science. Parents have the God-given right and responsibility to raise their children with the truth. It is not true, nor will ever be possible for a girl to become a boy or a boy to become a girl. Chemically altering an individual's experience of puberty, or surgically altering features and genitalia do not change sex or gender. They only maim and mutilate. Forcing parents so allow a child to socially transition under threat of abuse allegations or custody removal will only funnel more vulnerable young people into this path of irreversible damage. It will also allow children to be removed from loving parents when their only offense is lack of cooperation with Colorado's "Thought Code" on gender. Why would we allow a young person to be removed from loving parents who refuse to lie to their beloved child? Thanks for taking the time to read my testimony.

Kathleen Mulligan Against themselves	My son declared a trans identity when he was 15. We were cautious and wanted him to wait till 18 to do anything permanent. The school intervened and supported him in a social transition. They undermined our parental role and helped him find housing and medical outside our house. My son was estranged for 14 months. He started hormones after he was 18. He did not like how it made him feel and stopped. He later decided he was not trans but autistic. He desisted from his trans belief and embraced himself as male. He came home and tried to restart his life but the social transition had harmed his mental health and he struggled to put his life back together and take back the trans identity. A few months later he took his life. Taking parents out of the equation does not help children. They need their parents and a trans identity is not fixed. Kids change their minds. No more children need to die because parents' authority is undermined. Parents know their children best and we knew our son. He would be alive today if the school had not harmed him by pushing the scenario that the school knows better than the parents.
Monica Fuglei For themselves	Please consider passage of this bill which would profoundly protect the people I love and many students I serve during a time that they are being unfairly targeted. Health coverage is a human right and the life of a trans person is profoundly impacted by their ability to access gender affirming care. The current fears around losing these rights are negatively impacting my trans students and loved ones. These protections would allow them a more complete feeling of safety. Colorado's work to provide safe support for all LGBTQ people should be expanded into support of this bill.
Celine Studer For themselves	As a proud trans woman living in the state of Colorado, it has been a relief to my own safety to know that historically the trans constituents of this state have been protected by their elected officials. Today, we stand on the edge of anti-trans legislature and public opinion that is shaping the lives of every trans individual across the country. While misgendering is commonplace for many of us, when this happens in public institutions or by people who hold power, whether they be our bosses, our teachers, or public officials, it reflects the reality of our experiences. If we are not seen as who we are, and have that protected, how can we speak for ourselves in any way that matters? Our voices may be in the minority, but each and every voice within this minority has a story to tell; an experience that has shaped them. I don't ask for you to understand our voice, our identities, in the same way that we do. Just that you respect it as the voice of someone who is your friend, your neighbour, your loved one. Someone who desperately needs to be protected in a time when our very existence, our mental health, and our humanity is questioned and used as a tool for politicians to point at something many people do not understand in order to distract them from what they do. That we live in a fractured society where people long for community, protection, and representation.

	Thank you.
Whitney Langlois Against themselves	I do not think this is a good bill. As a Christian, I believe that God created male and female and we should seek to protect that. However, I do recognize that there are legitimate struggles with gender identity that starts from a young age. And as a Christian, I also believe that all people should be treated with dignity and respect. While I am sympathetic to the struggles and challenges of youth facing gender, identity issues, I do not think legal mandates putting parents and children against each other are the way to go about protecting and resolving these struggles. and as someone working in healthcare, I am very against allowing children to undergo transgender procedures.
Nicole Wrye Against themselves	I am wholeheartedly against this bill. This bill is an offense to parent's rights. And even if that section of the bill is struck out, there are many egregious aspects to this bill. I am most concerned for Coloradans' first amendment rights. As it stands now, this bill is extremely unconstitutional. Freedom of speech is an aspect of American life that should be upheld by either party, democratic or republican. To make a law forcing people to speak a certain way in any venue of public accommodation in this state is extremely un-American. Vote no on 1312.
Todd Seale Against themselves	This bill is nothing short of a sure sign of destruction for our children. We as normal healthy adults in our right mind could and should never allow our children to be deceived into thinking they are not who they really are. Biological males and females can never change who they are. We as parents should reinforce the truth to our children and have the right to raise our children in the righteous and true manner we choose. Government has no right to tell the people how we can raise or children. This bill iHB25-1312 is pure evil and must be stopped and rejected now. It is our responsibility to God, family, our children and our world to raise our children to be who God made them to be. Legislation like this is very destructive to our future as a nation and we cannot allow this insanity to proceed. I oppose this bill with everything in me and pray God forgive us as a people for falling so far away from truth. Do not pass this bill into law because it will aid in the downfall and destruction of our society.
Jackson Neal For themselves	I support this bill.
Amber Meriam Against themselves	Oh look another bill because people cannot love themselves and want to control others because they are afraid it will take away from them. Go get some therapy and maybe figure out you are pansexual and should love everyone even if you cannot understand them. I am constantly disappointing my own mother every day I wake up and still her. Talk to her she really wished she never had me!
Courtney Fischer	Testimony Opposing HB25-1312 ("Kelly Loving Act")

Against themselves	Courtney Fischer Colorado Springs, Colorado April 2025 Chairman, Committee Members, and Honored Guests, My name is Courtney Leigh Fischer. I am a proud lifelong Coloradan, a wife, a mother to three beautiful children, and someone whose life is guided by faith, compassion, and a deep love for the people of this state. I would have hoped to attend in person but I have an obligation and dedication to my employment. So, instead, I will write as if I am there in person... I come before you today to speak in firm opposition to House Bill 25-1312. I do so not out of anger or hatred but out of deep concern, strong conviction, and a sincere love for this community and our shared future. At the heart of this issue is not whether we care about those who see the world differently. We must. I believe, with every part of my being, that every person deserves dignity, kindness, and respect, even when we disagree. True love means speaking the truth with grace. It means standing firm in our convictions, even when the culture around us pulls in another direction. This bill goes far beyond protecting people from harm. It steps across a critical line into the private, sacred space of the family. It threatens the rights of parents to raise their children according to their values, beliefs, and understanding of what is true and good. HB25-1312 places the authority of the state above the role of the parent. It opens the door for families to be investigated, judged, and even divided by courts because a parent holds sincere, faith-based concerns about gender ideology. It redefines disagreement as abuse and turns conviction into coercion. This is not protection. It is overreach. We cannot ignore what this means for people of faith. This bill would pressure Christian schools, churches, and ministries to silence their beliefs or risk legal consequences. It would criminalize long-held truths taught from Scripture and expressed in love. For those of us who believe that male and female are created by God, this is a direct challenge to the core of our faith. Genesis 1:27 tells us that "God created mankind in His own image; male and female He created them." These are not outdated beliefs. They are the foundation of how we

	understand ourselves and how we raise our children. God does not make mistakes. And no government has the right to declare that truth a threat. I do not stand here in judgment of anyone. I stand here because I care. I care about our children - my children. I care about the future of our families - my family. I care about the kind of Colorado we are building. We can love others without surrendering what we know is true. We can show kindness without abandoning our convictions. We can create policies that protect people without dismantling parental rights or religious freedom. This bill, though well-intended by some, places the weight of the state against the very people who are trying to protect and guide their children in love. It creates division where there should be trust. It replaces dialogue with fear. It risks turning schools, courtrooms, and even sanctuaries into battlegrounds over deeply personal and spiritual matters. Colorado has long been a state that values freedom, diversity, and local community. Let us not become a place where government dictates what a parent must say, what a pastor must preach, or what a child must believe. Let us be a people who stand in truth and lead with compassion. I respectfully and urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. Not out of hate. Not out of fear. But out of a deep and abiding love for our families, our communities, and the future of this state. Thank you for hearing the voice of a mother who will always fight for her children, her faith, and her freedom. Sincerely, Courtney Fischer Colorado Springs, Colorado
Stephanie Saucedo Against themselves	I am writing to express my concerns regarding Colorado House Bill 25-1312, known as the "Kelly Loving Act." While I fully support the intention of protecting transgender individuals from harm and discrimination, I believe this bill, in its current form, poses serious risks to legal integrity, parental rights, and due process. I respectfully urge you to consider the following points: 1.Vague Definitions of Coercive Control

	The bill categorizes deadnaming and misgendering as forms of "coercive control" in child custody cases. While sensitivity is important, these terms are subjective and not always rooted in malicious intent. Without clear definitions or intent requirements, this section could be weaponized in custody disputes or used to punish thoughtful or faith-based parenting approaches. The irony of the term "coercive control" being aimed at the parents is not lost on me, since a child or parent can use this bill to control the outcome of custody in a malicious or dishonest way. 2.Potential Violation of Federal Reciprocity Principles Section 3 bars Colorado courts from recognizing other states' laws regarding child custody and gender-affirming care. This may violate the U.S. Constitution's Full Faith and Credit Clause and sets a troubling precedent for interstate legal cooperation. 3. Implementation Standards for Schools Mandating that school name-change policies accept any reason for a name change, and that dress codes must be fully gender-neutral, creates uncertainty. Schools may struggle to balance these mandates with educational, safety, or disciplinary needs. 4. Legal and Bureaucratic Challenges with Name Usage Requiring public forms to default to a "chosen name" may lead to confusion or legal ambiguity, particularly in cases involving legal identification, healthcare, or law enforcement. 5. Free Speech and Religious Liberty Concerns Defining all instances of misgendering or deadnaming in public settings as discrimination could infringe on free speech or religious beliefs, especially when such actions are unintentional or part of protected expression. I respectfully ask that you consider amendments to HB25-1312 that maintain protections for transgender individuals while ensuring fairness, clarity, and respect for constitutional rights. Thank you for your service and for listening to all constituents.
Tina Manna Against herself	To CO State Senators, I am writing to you today to OPPOSE HB25-1312. I strongly urge you to consider the damage to families and communities you will cause with this bill. Is it not the god given rights of a parent to raise their children? Why would you ever jeopardize this right for a parent(s) to recognize and assist their own child with any issues -including gender identity issues. Isn't that part of the freedom we have as American citizens? So do you realize the consequences of taking this right away from parents? How do

	you plan on dealing with the fallout of this crisis YOU are creating by taking parents rights to govern their own children? What happened to common sense? A parent can deal with this issue without the government getting involved with children's gender identity. Mental health has become a number one issue in healthcare of our kids and young adults. I am telling you as a healthcare professional, the government needs to help by getting to the root of the problem which isn't the parents! Instead, why don't you use common sense and help the parents with their children by providing FAMILY counseling. You cannot tell a child whose brain is not fully developed that it's okay to go through gender transitioning. As an adult, a person can make this choice. For the love of our children and next generation of adults, please do not pass HB25-1312. It's wrong on so many levels and will only contribute to the mental health crisis this state sadly has been in for sometime. Tina Manna
Lynda Bidlake For themselves	I am a retired school psychologist. I worked for twenty years with transgender students (K-12), their parents, and public school personnel. Please read and share what I learned about them. Being transgender is a real thing. The people who deny this, who believe that all people fall into one of two categories (male and female), are simply wrong. In fact, there is a broad range of genders in human beings. Within that range, people differ from birth in the physical bases of gender - their chromosomes, hormones, genitalia, brains. (Studies show that structures in the brains of transgender people are similar to those with the same gender identity, not the sex assigned at birth.) Transgender is not even itself a set, rigid category. Some people are nonbinary, some change over time (gender fluid), etc. Even if some others don't believe this or think it is wrong, their beliefs do not erase the fact that these differences exist. These people exist. It follows that transgender people deserve all of the rights that everyone has. Period. That includes all of the things that HB25-1312 addresses: the student's choice of name and dress (within the dress code), appropriate health-care, healthy parenting and custody decisions. Children and adolescents who do not receive this type of basic recognition, respect and nurturing are at great risk of suicide. The issue of transgender girls and women in sports is tricky; it is probably best addressed on an individual basis, with the biggest factor being whether the person has gone through male puberty. And this issue, like the others, should be addressed calmly and thoughtfully. Schools and governments should be there to support everyone. Please do not single out transgender people for discrimination, ill-treatment, even denial of their reality. Please pass HB25-1312.

Payge Nilsestuen For themselves	I am a transgender individual who has lived in CO my entire life. During my childhood, my parents' (completely realistic) fears of CPS colored my freedom of movement, and freedom to receive medical care. Being a transgender teenager only increased the paranoia surrounding family policing, and further served as a barrier to acquire medical care due to ignorant doctors. Allowing children to receive gender affirming care without the threat of bogus, manufactured, and scriptural claims of "child abuse" will benefit the lives of transgender children across the state. Conversely, threatening family separation or unjust custody arrangements engenders the lives of all children, and may actually result in child mistreatment. After all, purposefully limiting a child's medical care is tantamount to medical neglect. I did not receive gender affirming care as a child, but I regret this deeply. Accessing hormones and puberty blockers would have likely prevented the anguish of gender dysphoria and anorexia nervosa, as I took drastic steps to change my body myself. I want to assert that with my endorsement of this bill, I hope it will be a step towards the abolition and obsolescence of CPS entirely. Children have a right to live with their families, and CPS represents a threat to the human rights of Black, Brown, Indigenous, queer and transgender children and their families--chosen or biological.
Anna Browne For themselves	Hello, my name is Anna Browne and I am a new resident of Colorado. I am in support of this bill. As a state, Colorado has the ability to further our protections for transgender individuals. This group is one of the most targeted demographics in today's society, and transgender youth face and increasingly hard time living life. This bill will solidify Colorado's status as a sanctuary state, and puts medical decisions back in the hands of individuals and families instead of governments.
Kristin Hood Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love.

	This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Luke Allevato Against himself	My name is Luke Allevato, I am 22 years old, and I have lived in Colorado for 17 years. On behalf of my friends, family, classmates, colleagues, and quite literally every other Gen Zer that I know, I strongly oppose this bill and I outright reject the indefensible premises on which it is founded. Men cannot become women, and women cannot become men, anymore than I can make $2+2=5$ just by saying it is so. These statements are absolute truth, and they have been since the beginning of time. The concepts this bill deems "misgendering" and "dead naming", I and millions of other Americans know as simply calling a spade a spade. Nonsensical language and legislation like the Kelly Loving Act have no place in Colorado or America as a whole. As a Christian man I personally believe that willfully rejecting fundamental facts of our existence in such a way that places the transgender agenda over actual physical reality not only violates God's law, it invites His judgement on us as individuals and as a nation. However, I assert you do not need to be religious in the slightest to agree with me on the following statement: this bill is based on lies. Legislation is necessarily built on a basis of an absolute, unchanging truth. If you challenge this statement, I would ask on which basis you are challenging me, since in this worldview, your rules do not apply to me anyway, and the whole system breaks down. This bill is not a matter of Christians versus secularists, it is not a matter of conservatism versus liberalism, and it is not a matter of old ideology versus new. It is a matter of truth, sanity, and reality, versus living in a fictitious, make-believe world. I urge all Coloradans who hear this testimony to join me in standing on the side of truth today. Thank you.
Hatem Teirelbar For himself	Everyone has a right to safety and dignity in public, and it is the responsibility of governments to protect those rights. The Kelly Loving Act is a vital to ensuring that the safety and dignity of trans people in Colorado is protected. To give just one example, being referred to by the wrong name is disrespectful to anyone. For transgender people, who are going through a process of redefining their identity, deadnaming and misgendering are extremely hurtful. When done intentionally and repeatedly, they demonstrates a profound lack of respect for their

	identity, for their agency and personhood. Beyond the basic necessity of verifying identity, which the original text of the Kelly Loving Act already provides for, there is no reason for the state of Colorado to subject transgender Coloradoans to such disrespect. Similarly, transgender people should have the same protection from this as other groups have from race or gender-based harassment in the workplace and in public accommodations. The Kelly Loving act establishes some bare minimum protections needed for transgender people to have some degree of safety and dignity in Colorado. Right now, transgender people are in incredible danger, subject to political scapegoating, bigotry, to physical and sexual violence. There are gaps in the legal protections which safeguard many protected classes from these abuses, and this act is a small first step toward filling in those gaps. What kind of message does it send to Coloradoans if legislators are unwilling to take even the simplest step? I urge the committee to vote in favor of the Kelly Loving Act.
Adam Kilmer For himself	Transgender people in our nation -- adults and youth alike -- do not enjoy the same rights as other Americans. This should concern us all, as historically, the denial of rights to transgender people frequently precedes the denial of rights to others. HB25-1312 makes simple but fair changes that improve the rights of all Colorado youth, not just transgender youth. It presents an even playing field. Sections 8 and 9 of this bill merely extend to transgender Coloradoans the same protections against harassment that were already afforded to cisgender individuals. Sections 5 and 6 of this bill permit all students -- cisgender and transgender alike -- the right to choose what clothing suits them. Sections 4 and 7 allow transgender Coloradoans the same protections as the other categories in CRS 24-34-301. At no point does HB25-1312 punish Coloradoans for espousing anti-trans ideology any more than the law punishes individuals for espousing -- for example -- anti-semitic ideologies. Civil rights should be common to all Coloradoans and any attempt to deny them from any one group should be treated as a threat to all of them.
James Opperman Against himself	Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I am deeply opposed to this bill. While the bill is intended to protect gender identity and expression, it fails to protect parents who cannot with a clear conscience agree with one's gender identity. Studies show that 98% of children who struggle with their

	sex come to accept it by adulthood. My adolescent years were a time of confusion for me and I made many irresponsible decisions that I now regret, and it took many years into adulthood to realize that many of my parent's advice was correct even though I didn't like it at the time. This bill fails to account for the fact that during childhood and adolescence children are not mature enough to make lifelong decisions related to these issues, and parental rights should not be violated to protect a child's gender expression during a normal time of change and confusion in their lives. To pass this bill would put parental authority in the hands of youth during a time in their lives when they are known for confusion and making irresponsible and impulsive decisions.
Vada Reilly Against themselves	HB25-1312 introduces measures that could undermine parental rights and family autonomy in Colorado. One major concern is Section 2, which mandates that courts consider "deadnaming," "misgendering," or threats to disclose gender-affirming care as forms of coercive control in child custody disputes. While intended to protect transgender individuals, this provision risks penalizing parents who, out of personal belief or concern for their child's well-being, question or oppose gender-affirming treatments. It effectively shifts decision-making power from parents to the state, potentially alienating families and discouraging open dialogue about complex, deeply personal issues. Critics could argue this overreach prioritizes ideology over the nuanced dynamics of parent-child relationships, especially when evidence on the long-term effects of genderaffirming care for minors remains debated. Another point of contention is the bill's potential to infringe on free speech and individual conscience. By classifying certain language or actions—like using a child's birth name or pronouns aligned with their biological sex—as coercive, HB25-1312 may compel conformity to a specific gender ideology under legal threat. This could chill honest expression, particularly among parents, educators, or caregivers who hold differing views on gender identity. For example, a parent who believes biological sex should guide their child's upbringing might face legal repercussions for what they see as exercising their rights to raise their child according to their values. This raises questions about whether the state should dictate how individuals navigate these sensitive matters, potentially eroding personal freedoms in favor of a one-size-fits-all approach. Finally, Section 3 of the bill, which bars Colorado courts from enforcing out-of-state laws allowing child removal due to gender-affirming care, could create legal inconsistencies and jurisdictional conflicts. While framed as protective, this provision might encourage "forum shopping," where families move to Colorado to evade oversight from states with stricter regulations on pediatric gender treatments. Opponents might argue this undermines the broader legal system's ability to balance child welfare with parental authority across state lines. Additionally, it assumes gender-affirming care is universally beneficial, disregarding cases where medical professionals or parents question its appropriateness for certain minors. This blanket approach risks prioritizing political goals over a careful, case-by-case evaluation of what truly serves a child's best interests. Please vote "NO" on HB25-1312!
Angela Shah For themselves	This was meant to be read in person, but I am unfortunately unable to make it in. I am FOR the Kelly Loving Act to be passed.

	2 minutes To begin, I ask that we all take a couple of breaths together. Ready? Inhale 1 2 3 Exhale 1 2 3 Inhale 1 2 3 Exhale 1 2 3 Better? Perhaps. But I know myself, along with others in this room, have not fully exhaled since this last presidential election. And have not exhaled since entering this room as we come together to fight for not just the us, but the we. That includes all of you at the panel. WE took a moment to breathe together and through that, I remind each of you that our breaths, lives, and existences are intertwined. That, is a promise. That is the truth of living in this nation, and in this state. Today, each of you have heard countless experiences and witnessed each person's truth, joy, sorrow, pain, anger, and so much more, and now I ask that you see my rage. Rage that is not to be overlooked behind the calm of my voice. Rage as an expression of love and hope. Rage that is not here to beg or plead but to demand that each of us is seen, understood, and protected. Rage that demands that Colorado truly show up as the safe haven that we claim to be. Freedom is an action, not just words. Prove it. Rage that is not just for the people or by the people, but as the people. Rage for each of my trans family members, the ones in this room and out of it, passed and with us, each of whom deserves a life to be who they are and respected as such. Rage for each person who feels that instead of being safe to be themselves, they must fear a status quo that is hell-bent on ruin. I demand that Colorado protect trans lives and identities through ensuring the safety of each individual who deserves to be seen, named, and loved for who they are as The Kelly Loving Act would help ensure. Thank you
Kimberly Shively For	I am asking you to support HB25-1312 because simply put, it will make life better for trans kids by helping their parents, their teachers, their schools, and communities to better understand how harmful certain language can be and how to better navigate

themselves	and respect individuals who identify as trans. This bill will not take away parents' rights but it will strengthen the bonds between parents and kids who identify as trans. I see this bill as a building block for the community at large to better understand and respect the needs of the trans community in Colorado. We have a beautiful and vibrant community here. Let's make it even better by supporting this bill.
Rachel Boggs Against themselves	Dear Senators and Representatives, I am a Colorado wife and mother, and I have an 18 month old son named Luke. My husband and I plan to have several more children and to homeschool them. We base our lives on the Bible, and we will honor the Truth therein. I represent countless mothers and women like myself who oppose these bills, because we want to raise our children according to our own conscience, faith, values, and beliefs. We do not want the threat of our teaching the Bible to be labeled as "coercive control" nor the outrageous threat of our children being taken away from us. In the United States of America this should not be too much to ask. While your specific stances on some of these issues might differ, the one thing in America we are supposed to agree upon is your and my right to be able to SAY we disagree. I should think you would like to raise and teach your children how you best see fit. As moms, we're asking you to fight for our right to continue to do so in this state. I urge you now to consider the impact you will have on the next generation. Will you be remembered for having stood in the face of tyranny — like the great men of the past? Churchill, Bonhoeffer, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr, or any of those that have called out evil where they saw it? Or will you succumb to pressure and weakness and let evil worm its way into this nation's laws more and more? Whatever happens with this bill, I guarantee that in years to come, history will not look back with favor on those who promoted, encouraged, and enacted policies that would undermine the family unit – the very fabric of society, religious liberty, and freedom of speech. It will be denounced. Will your name and actions be denounced? Or will you stand among those who opposed the evil in their day and didn't let it advance. It takes courage to call out what is evil when it is clothed as good, affirming, progressive, and loving even. But consider these words from Scripture: Isaiah 5:20 declares, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil." This is more than saying "you shouldn't do this." The verse says "Woe" which means warning! This expresses the coming wrath and punishment of God on those who defy his will and usher in evil. Edmund Burke warned, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

	You have a choice today. Please hear the people's will, and act on behalf of the constituents you represent. We are looking to you in this hour to act not out of self-preservation, not out of fear of what any one might think, and not based on what your party might expect. Rather, vote to please God Almighty above and the people who look to your leadership now. Thank you sincerely for taking the time to read this, May God's favor be upon each of you and your families, Rachel Boggs
Margaret Morrow Against themselves	HB25-1312 Testimony Name: Margaret Morrow, PhD Representing: Self Against the bill Two reasons that I am against the bill: 1) A lot of people including myself have trouble getting names correct and remembering them. As an educator in the Colorado public middle and high schools for 16 years, I always began class with apologizing for getting names wrong and confessing that I am really bad at remembering names. Students were merciful after this, and accepted my shortcomings graciously. Additionally, a group of educators shares this problem – math and science teachers. For a number of years, I graded AP exams with 2,000 teachers from across the country. One commonality for math and science teachers was that we struggle to remember names. This bill requires that teachers call students by their preferred name, and has consequences for not doing this. I'm asking that you take this disability into your consideration, as the bill discriminates against the well intentioned who just can't remember names. 2) Teaching and promoting that sexual identity equals happiness without teaching first job skills can have severe consequences for children and youth. Over the course of my teaching career in the Colorado public schools, I witnessed several students fall for the lie that publicly announcing and living a sexual identity would fulfill them. This ultimately caused several great distress, as they did not yet have job skills and could not support themselves financially. The tension between the student and their parents escalated, and many choose to go live with "nice" adults that promised to care for them. One student, Draton Mares, is now serving life without parole for murder.

	I observed Draton Mares as an innocent and happy 9th grader, but by the time he became my student as a high school senior, he created the most disturbing music video with a calm demeanor. I could only report his blood-filled creation to the assistant principal and his counselor. Sadly, Draton eventually murdered a hookup and is serving life without parole for murder. At his trial he reported that he was victimized and abused in high school. This anger over victimization was apparent in his video. What if Draton had first been taught that he should be able to support and care for himself before he considers his sexuality and acts on it? I don't know what he would have decided, but I do know that that is the correct message for the adults in his life and the state to send him. Respectfully submitted, Margaret Morrow
Allie Morton For themselves	Transgender community members deserve their individuality, as anyone else does, to be treated with respect. It is coercive to purposefully mislabel people when these people have less confidence to fully be themselves due to societal pressures. In support of enabling this community to thrive, I support this bill.
Kim Monson Against Kim Monson	I am Kim Monson, host of The Kim Monson Radio Show and president of CUT (Colorado Union of Taxpayers). Bad bills cannot be amended to become good bills. A bad bill is a bad bill. Therefore voting NO on HB25-1312 is the good thing to do. There are legislators and those in the medical trans arena who think they are helping children. They are on the wrong side of history. In the old days, if bad actors would have ridden into town, cut off the penises of our young boys and cut off the breasts of our young girls, we would have fought back to protect our children—all children. Coloradans are doing that right now with hundreds signed up to testify against HB25-1312. Fighting for our children. It is important to understand that it is not compassionate, nor caring, nor kind to pharmaceutically, surgically and/or mentally mutilate children.

	In 2025, the extremists who control the Colorado legislature are pushing forward HB25-1312. Some of the terrible sections have been struck. Thank you! However, even remaining, HB25-1312 is a very bad bill. Vote NO on HB25-1312.
Max Julien For themselves	Hello Senators, I had originally intended to give my testimony in person but could not because of life commitments. Having listened to some of those against this bill and those seeking to amend I feel even more confident in my opinion that the bill should be passed as it is unfortunately with 3, 5 and 8 struck. Throwing the whole thing out or if the Governor were to veto it would be, for me, unforgivable. There was some concern that this bill would make other LGBTQIA protections vulnerable. This is short sighted, the same opponents of this bill on the local and federal level are also opponents of long fought for Gay, Queer and gender rights. They have even reused many of the same tired talking points used against gay folks and applied them to trans people today. Feigned concern for children among them. Make no mistake this bill protects all youth, not from trans people but from organizations like moms for liberty and associates. This organizations routinely harass Trans or just gender non conforming minors and adults. They attack schools, public libraries, elected officials, and activists. The implications they often make about grooming and the like not only are false but represent actual physical threats to the people targeted by them. This bill is enacted will limit their ability to do that and that is the true reason for their opposition. They are fueled by a hateful obsession. They were radicalized by misinformation on Facebook or Twitter. Those of us for this bill on the other hand are motivated by genuine concern and a deep love for our trans friends and family. A trans woman was a fixture of my life growing up. Although she is gone I'm in debt to her for teaching me understanding and kindness. I hope you have someone like that in your life and vote to pass. Thank you.
Wes Anderson Against themselves	The bill expands the definition of "coercive control" to include "deadnaming" or "misgendering" and calls these practices abusive, while requiring courts to use this information in investigations and to determine the allocation of parental responsibilities in custody disputes. These definitions are also added by the bill to the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act to be used against businesses and people in places of public accommodation. This bill attacks parental rights, religious freedom, and the free speech of all Coloradans. It is an egregious NEXT STEP in the bold assault on parental rights in Colorado. Please vote no!
Gabriel Hutchings	Hello, my name is Gabriel. I am resident of Old Town Arvada, I work in the arts, I am an admissions counselor for an art college, and I am a transgender man. This Bill

For themselves	being passed is important to me because I care about the youth of today, and for my community of transgender individuals such as myself. I want children and their guardians to have the means to legally protect themselves against malicious harassment that can do grave harm especially to a young person, and for trans adult to also be able to protect themselves from harassment in the work place. The process of being out as a trans person is tedious, stressful, and to an unfortunate extent dangerous. This is not because of trans people just being themselves, but from hateful people who wish for us to be rid of, or to make our lives more difficult. We need this protection for one of our most vulnerable people of our cities. Thank you.
Theresa Irby Against themselves	Senators, Representatives and fellow Coloradans I am here today to stand for the rights of all parents in Colorado. The egregious bill HB25-1312 is a violation of parental rights, free speech and religious liberty. The right as a parent to do what we know is best for the child that we either grew in our body or are responsible for the well being of through other means. The state does not know my child. The state does not love my child. The state does not know if my child likes to play make believe or if my child is shy or introverted. The state does not know what events have shaped a period of time in my child's life. And that is what "childhood" IS after all.....It is periods of time. Small windows where our children grow, learn and change their minds from day to day, month to month. To think that a child has the ability at 12, 13, 14 years old to make a life altering decision to mutilate their sexual and physical anatomy is NOTHING short of Child Abuse! A parent knows the signs of their child's needs, hurts, happiness. A parent is responsible for doing what is best for their child. Just because a minority group has decided that a child can change their name if they feel a certain way and have a dead name...does not make it so. I mean what is a dead name?? My child's name is Not dead just because a radical group says it can be so. My child was born legally in the United States of America. My sons and my daughter were all given a legal Birth certificate and a social security number which was a legal means of showing who they are and lists THEIR NAME! How does a radical group get to decide that I or any other parent could lose our child for calling them their LEGAL name? Calling them a name given by the parent that birthed them or is in charge of their well being. No! Just No! Me loving my child is not coercive control, it is parenting. When my daughter was 5, she liked to pretend to be a puppy. It was amazing that she could lift her foot and scratch her head, she could make barking sounds and pant...but it was all only pretend. She wasn't born a puppy and was not and would never be a puppy and I NEVER told her she was...she knew we were simply playing pretend. It makes no sense that the Colorado legislature would force me or any other parent to lie to our children and affirm this game of pretend? It lacks all common sense. When my youngest was little, he only wanted to wear comfy pants, until a few months passed by and he only wanted jeans only to change his mind again that only athletic pants were good. Why...because changing your mind often while you are learning and growing is a normal part of childhood.

	When my daughter was 12 and only wanted to wear oversized black hoodies (like seriously she owned 12 of them), probably much due to a prepubescent changing body) , I didn't worry she needed to change her identity because she didn't necessarily like everything about herself. I trusted that God made her who she was and nurtured her, loved her, and knew she would continue to grow and change. HB1312 is wrong. Just because a child expresses awkward feelings does Not mean it is time to transition them to alter their body. Mutilating a child's body is PERMANENT. The prepubescent feelings that most young people have are not!! Changing and mutilating a child-is wrong! You are Not changing their gender, because even after the horrible unnecessary mutilation they still are what they are.....A boy or a girl!! They still have the same chromosomes they were born with confirming their gender. HB25-1312 imposes gender ideology in schools, forcing schools to affirm gender ideology, and prevent Christian schools from applying and teaching Christian values. It is UNConstitutional to force a School into this game of pretend and take away their right to teach traditional roles of boys and girls in their schools. Additionally, this bill would make my beautiful state of Colorado a sanctuary state, ignoring out of state laws put into place to protect minors. All of this is wrong and goes against all common sense. I implore you today...please vote No on 1312
David Postier Against himself	Hello everyone. My name is David Postier and I'm a pastor at a church on the south side of the Denver metro area. I'm here testifying as a pastor but also as a parent. A lot of people today have accused the church of "getting more political." They'll refer to the importance of "the separation of church and state." Unfortunately, most people do not appear to know the origins of this concept and are usually shocked to learn that it cannot be found in the United States Constitution or the Bill of Rights. The phrase finds its origin in a private letter sent from President Thomas Jefferson to personal acquaintances. Now, the principle of "separation of church and state" is an important one to uphold. However, its original intention was NOT to keep the church out of the state - it was to keep the state out of the church. Our founding fathers knew the danger there is in letting a government dictate the religious beliefs of its people. Bill 1312 is an example of the government trying to break that separation and bring the state into the church. In this bill, government officials like yourselves are seeking to define human identity and determine how kids should be parented. Those are not political ideas, they are deeply spiritual ones. So, the reality is this: the church is not getting more political - politicians are getting more spiritual and more theological. And that is not okay.

	And so, I'm here alongside thousands of other pastors, parents, and families to bump you back in your lane and demand that you reject this bill as it is not your job to engage in theology and determine the right way to raise children – that's the job of parents and the Church. Stay in your lane, go back to your job, be political and not spiritual, and remember that as elected representatives, you work for us. Thank you.
Claire Gray For themselves	Testimony in Support of HB25-1312 To the members of this committee: My name is Claire Gray and I am writing to express my fierce and unequivocal support for HB25-1312. It is with a deep sense of urgency, frustration, and exhaustion—but also with unwavering clarity, conviction & honesty that I am expressing my endorsement in this bill to be passed as written, with its full protections intact. Not watered down. Not compromised. Fully. I am a cisgender white woman. And I say that not to center myself in this conversation, but because apparently that's what gets people to listen—if you see me as "normal" by some broken societal standard, great! Then implore you to hear me when I say this: There is something deeply unsettling growing in this country — a kind of fear, disconnection, and dangerous thinking that's hard to name but impossible to ignore. Maybe it's always been here, but now it feels closer to the surface, more accepted, even normalized in some places. HB25-1312 addresses these concerns by [insert specific provisions of the bill, e.g., "ensuring fair treatment in family courts" or "protecting parental rights"]. It's a step toward rectifying systemic issues that have long gone unaddressed. We've seen systems fail, people in power abuse their roles, and accountability slip further out of reach. Just recently, a judge was jailed — and while that may seem like 'justice', it's also a reminder of how deeply rooted the problems are. We can't afford to look away or assume someone else will take action. This bill is a step toward doing what's right, protecting what matters, and refusing to let the worst parts of our system continue unchecked. Supporting this bill is not just about policy; it's about standing up for what's right and preventing further erosion of our values. As right-wing lobbying groups mobilize to gut this bill, and as our Governor threatens to veto it, I find myself asking: What are we doing? Truly—what the hell are we doing here? The fact that we are even having this conversation, again—about

	whether or not human beings deserve safety, dignity, and recognition for who they are—is beyond baffling. In a time when the rights of transgender individuals are under relentless attack across the country—when the Trump administration and its ideological descendants have declared open war on basic human dignity—Colorado has the opportunity to take a stand. And we must. I have never been so hopeful and so proud since prior to January 20th, 2025, as I was on the day this bill initially was passed (nor have i felt 'since'). Don't take that away from us. You were elected by the people for the people. And while the constitution is deteriorating as you all sit here and debate the 1% of entirety of our nations population 'rights', it remains today. As citizens of this country, we all know why the constitution was written, what the constitution dictates, and the purpose it serves and who's rights it protects. I cannot believe we're even still debating whether trans people deserve safety, autonomy, or the right to simply exist without fear. These are people. Our people. Your people. Even the people who hate/don't understand them—we are connected to this fight whether we like it or not. Trans people deserve the same rights, opportunities, and protection every human being is entitled to. Nothing less. This bill doesn't go far enough—but it's a start. And to see that even this is controversial? It's horrifying. We are not talking about ideology—we're talking about human lives. And if someone's mere existence threatens your comfort so deeply, that is not a "political opinion"—that's a mirror you need to hold up to yourself. Let me be blunt: the level of obsession some people have with how others identify, live, or love—it's creepy. It's invasive. And frankly, it's gross. If you're spending this much energy trying to deny someone else's existence, you've lost the plot entirely. And yes, I'm angry. I'm angry because I have to keep explaining why life ; today why trans life matters. But again, why am i even having to explain to other humans why other HUMANS should 'exist' ?! I'm angry that people who know safety and privilege are fighting to make sure others never get a taste of it. I'm angry that the baseline needs outlined in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs—safety, belonging, self-esteem—are somehow, still up for debate when it comes to trans individuals. If you're comfortable in this moment, and you oppose this bill: shame on you. Because trans people don't know what that comfort feels like. They don't get to walk through the world without fear. They don't get to assume safety. And if this bill makes you "uncomfortable"? Good. Sit with that. This is not about your comfort. It's about their survival.

	HB25-1312 is not radical. It is not excessive. It is the absolute minimum a decent society should provide. I urge you to pass it as written, without weakening it to appease those who view trans lives as optional, expendable, or offensive. The future will remember who stood for justice—and who chose cowardice. We are connected. We need each other. And trans lives, future generations lives, your children, nieces, nephews, our shared FUTURE, depend on you doing the right thing and doing your job. I sincerely thank you for your time and hopefully, for your consideration as well. With Gratitude, Claire Gray
Brianna Zindell For themselves	Hello. My name is Brianna. While I myself am not trans, I have several friends and people I care about that are. I had a friend who in middle school and high school started socially transitioning, and started asking teachers and peers to call them by a different name. He was met by resistance not by our peers, but by our teachers. They refused to call him by the name he had chosen, even though they were completely fine referring to me by my nickname. Why was I allowed to be called something else but he was not? What was the difference? I can answer that question, there wasn't. The teachers just didn't want to accept the fact that he was who he was and tried to do everything to stop that. This did so much damage to my friend. He began to self harm and even tried attempting, though he thankfully didn't succeed and is alive and well. But how many kids in this circumstance aren't? How many succeeded? Kids deserve to be treated with the same respect and dignity regardless of how they identify, and this bill helps that happen. Thank you.
Taylor Surroz Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families.

	For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Nicole B For themselves	Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB25-1312, the Kelly Loving Act. This legislation represents a vital and evidence-based step forward in protecting transgender individuals in Colorado—in our schools, families, and public life. First, the Act rightly recognizes that deadnaming (using a transgender person's former name without consent) and misgendering (referring to someone by incorrect pronouns or gender) are not harmless acts but forms of discrimination that cause real and measurable harm. Research shows that these behaviors trigger anxiety, depression, alienation, and increase suicidal ideation, especially among transgender youth. For example, the National Institutes of Health highlights that affirming a person's chosen name and pronouns drastically reduces thoughts of suicide and improves mental health outcomes. This bill's inclusion of deadnaming and misgendering as discriminatory acts under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act is therefore a critical legal acknowledgment of these harms. Second, the Kelly Loving Act addresses coercive control in family law by requiring courts to consider deadnaming, misgendering, or threats related to gender-affirming care when making child custody decisions. This provision protects transgender youth from emotional abuse and ensures that parental responsibilities are allocated in the child's best interests. Furthermore, by prohibiting Colorado courts from enforcing out-of-state laws that remove children from parents for supporting gender-affirming care, the bill safeguards families from hostile legal actions elsewhere, reinforcing Colorado as a sanctuary for gender-affirming care. Third, the bill promotes inclusive and supportive educational environments by mandating that school policies on chosen names must accommodate all reasons a student may use a name different from their legal name. It also requires gender-neutral dress codes, allowing students to express their gender identity freely and safely. These measures are essential to reducing discrimination and bullying in schools, which disproportionately affect transgender students and contribute to adverse mental health outcomes. Finally, the Act ensures that public agencies respect chosen names on forms and documentation, reinforcing dignity and identity in public life. This practical step reduces misgendering and deadnaming in everyday interactions, further supporting transgender Coloradans. In sum, HB25-1312 is grounded in extensive community input and supported by scientific research and legal precedent. It protects transgender individuals from discrimination and coercive control, affirms their identities, and strengthens family and educational environments. Passing the Kelly Loving Act will honor the legacy of

	Kelly Loving and ensure Colorado leads the nation in transgender rights and protections. Thank you for your consideration.
Rachel Keane Against themselves	Written Testimony to the Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee Date: April 30, 2025 Re: Opposition to House Bill 25-1312 – Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, My name is Rachel Keane, and I am a Colorado resident speaking as a free speech absolutist. I respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 25-1312, as it compels speech in violation of my fundamental First Amendment rights. As someone who believes the government must not force individuals to express or support specific viewpoints, I cannot be compelled to endorse or comply with this bill's provisions that infringe on free expression. HB25-1312, the "Kelly Loving Act," includes measures defining "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as discriminatory acts under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, particularly in public accommodations. It also labels these actions as "coercive control" in child custody cases, potentially punishing parents for their speech. While the bill aims to protect transgender individuals, its language risks criminalizing or penalizing honest expression, such as using biologically accurate pronouns or legal names in public discourse, journalism, or private conversations. This overreach threatens my right to speak freely and practice my faith without fear of government retribution. As a free speech absolutist, I hold that the First Amendment protects even controversial or offensive speech. The government cannot mandate that I affirm any individual's chosen identity or punish me for expressing my perspective, whether in a blog, book, or casual conversation. By classifying certain speech as discriminatory, HB25-1312 sets a precedent for the state to act as an arbiter of acceptable language, eroding the bedrock of open discourse. If the government can force me to support or comply with this bill's speech mandates, it can similarly compel other forms of expression, chilling dissent, and debate. I urge the Committee to amend or reject HB25-1312 to protect free speech. Thank you for considering my testimony and for your commitment to upholding our constitutional rights. Sincerely, Rachel Keane Colorado
May Albrecht	Dear Colorado Lawmakers,

Against themselves	Please consider this heartfelt and urgent letter from a mother of 4, an active community leader, and a Colorado native who is standing strongly in opposition to HB25-1312. This proposed bill is a clear threat to parents who are raising their children in opposition to a cultural ideology, the bill stating that the government will remove children from their parents if parents do not conform to transgender ideology. I am writing to you standing on free soil, in a land and a country where my freedoms to raise my children in the way I best choose was paid for by the very costly and very valuable blood of many men and women who fought for this country. My rights as a parent to determine what is best for my children was established when this great nation was founded on Christian principles, where all people were endowed with life and liberty, and freedom. If a government or an educational system begins to infringe on my family and our beliefs, then they are in direct defiance of the Constitution of the United States of America. I believe we have the same goals- to protect children- but we have very different ways of accomplishing that. Which is why we all must be allowed to exercise those differences in beliefs without infringement from a government within our own homes. If you can't enlist in the army, you can't buy a pack of cigarettes, or even get a tattoo until you're 18 because your brain's not fully developed to make those choices, why are we allowing children to make life-altering choices that would additionally remove them from their precious homes and families? I'm asking you to take the emotion out of your decision, and to see that as long as we cultivate the family unit these children have a fighting chance against suicide and depression. If we cultivate the home and the love of the family and we come alongside parents who are wrestling through these things with their children then these children will more likely thrive. Consider the foster care statistics and what detriment happens to children who do not have a unit around them. I beg you not to interfere with parental rights because you disagree with another's belief system, the ramifications to your decision to disregard parental rights will negatively impact all future families in Colorado Your job is singular, support the Constitution and the Colorado family, so our children have their best chance at thriving, and that is within a family and not government control.
Jordyn Merritt For themselves	I am commenting here in support of HB25-1312. As a transgender adult, I find it impossible to stress enough the importance of support and acceptance for transgender youth especially. This bill provides measures for the safety and security

	not just of transgender children, but also of supportive families, and helps ensure the sort of stability that all children should have. Lack of knowledge or acceptance does not make any child safer. I grew up in an environment where I did not even hear about being transgender until I was already an adult, and where I was not accepted or encouraged to present how I was comfortable presenting. This did not make me any less trans, it simply made my childhood more uncomfortable, more confusing, and less supportive. It did not discourage me from the ways I wanted to dress and appear, it only enforced on me that the people around me would harm me if they knew the things I continued to want and the ways I would be most comfortable. It did not make me think about or desire presenting in my preferred appearance any less, it just made those thoughts painful. Now that I am an adult, being transgender is a source of incredible joy and comfort for me. I would not choose to be any different for the world, and I would not ever want to give up the euphoria of living as myself. I think that this bill is a great step towards supporting transgender youth to be able to experience that happiness as well. Our stories so often center our discomfort, our destruction and our deaths at the hands of others, often at the hands of our communities and the people who should have been there to protect us. This doesn't have to be true. Being transgender is not a horrific thing, it is our treatment that is horrific. Choosing to support transgender youth is a step towards a world where you can see and share in our joy. Choosing to try and push us back into silence will not cause transgender children to become cisgender, it will cause them to be isolated, unhappy, and uncommunicative adults, if they make it to being adults at all. Thank you.
Sidney Priday Against themselves	My wife and I have lived/worked/paid taxes in Colorado since 1980, (45 years). We have raised 2 beautiful children, that continue to live/work/ and pay taxes. The house bill to "protect transgender rights" is a serious threat to parental rights, free speech, and constitutional balance of power. To lose possible custody of your children because of misnaming them is insane. You take the families ability to teach a solid value system. The current administration has stated that there are 2 genders, clearly a scriptural mandate. This progressive/ liberal agenda in this state are jeopardizing any federal monies and assistance. In summation, there is no common sense or morality given to passing this bill. Respectfully,

	Sid Priday
muhua hsia For themselves	I am a queer and trans Denver resident and am in support of the Kelly Loving Act. Right now the lives of trans folks are at stake when the dominant political party normalizes hate and bigotry against our communities. It's so important to codify protections for the trans community right now. My family was not accepting of my identities in my childhood, and I was deeply depressed and suicidal from the time I was 8. Colorado provided me with access to gender-affirming care, which has been lifesaving. Please demonstrate through legal protections that the lives of trans people matter and that no one, even parents, can dehumanize trans people.
Margo Harriman Against themselves	I am writing to you to urge you to VOTE NO on CO HB25-1312. This radical bill will attack the fundamental rights of free speech and parental authority by: -- Denying Parental Rights. This bill threatens parental authority by considering parents who call a child by their birth name and pronoun that match their sex as unfit in custody disputes. It also bars Colorado courts from honoring other states' laws that protect children from harmful "gender transitions"—trampling parental rights and ignoring state sovereignty in the process. -- Violating Free Speech. This bill dangerously defines "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as discrimination under Colorado law—effectively criminalizing speech. Courts have already ruled: the government can't compel speech. -- Harming Vulnerable Children. Up to 98% of children with gender confusion outgrow it and accept their biological sex. But "gender affirming care" pushes them toward castration, sterilization, and permanent sexual dysfunction. After surgery, suicide rates skyrocket—nearly 20 times higher than average. Social transitions and puberty blockers often lock kids into a lifetime of medical dependency. Tearing them from loving, fit families based on bogus abuse claims only puts them at greater risk. To protect parents and children, the state legislature must reject CO HB25-1312 to put an end to the weaponization of gender ideology against parents in Colorado. Please vote no on HB25-1312.
Eric Harriman Against themselves	I am writing to you to urge you to VOTE NO on CO HB25-1312.

	This radical bill will attack the fundamental rights of free speech and parental authority by: -- Denying Parental Rights. This bill threatens parental authority by considering parents who call a child by their birth name and pronoun that match their sex as unfit in custody disputes. It also bars Colorado courts from honoring other states' laws that protect children from harmful "gender transitions"—trampling parental rights and ignoring state sovereignty in the process. -- Violating Free Speech. This bill dangerously defines "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as discrimination under Colorado law—effectively criminalizing speech. Courts have already ruled: the government can't compel speech. -- Harming Vulnerable Children. Up to 98% of children with gender confusion outgrow it and accept their biological sex. But "gender affirming care" pushes them toward castration, sterilization, and permanent sexual dysfunction. After surgery, suicide rates skyrocket—nearly 20 times higher than average. Social transitions and puberty blockers often lock kids into a lifetime of medical dependency. Tearing them from loving, fit families based on bogus abuse claims only puts them at greater risk. To protect parents and children, the state legislature must reject CO HB25-1312 to put an end to the weaponization of gender ideology against parents in Colorado. Please vote no on HB25-1312.
Drienna Wicha For themselves	I am in support of the kelly loving act, especially now at a time when we are seeing more and more attacks against the lgbtq+ community, but especially to those who are trans. I work with and know many young trans people in colorado who would benefit from this bill being passed, and who would actively get hurt from a bill like this not being passed.
Monica Fuglei For themselves	I am writing to amend my earlier sent strong support for this bill (as it was aimed at healthcare) and share additional strong support for this bill. Acknowledgement and recognition of our trans citizens matters - as does protecting their rights in an. Increasingly fraught and anti-trans nation and world. My trans students and loved ones matter - and uplifting and upholding their rights sends a very clear message that they are loved and upheld as they are and that they are worth the protection of the state from deadnaming, physical social and emotional abuse, losing access to sports, and ensuring that their rights to self actualization - even when they are minors - are protected. Thank you for doing what is right for trans youth in Colorado - let them live!

Jennifer Rea Against themselves	As a mama of 4 adult children and a Colorado citizen for over 30 years, I wholeheartedly oppose Bill HB25-1312. It is not the state's right to punish parents for raising their children according to the Word of God and not affirming ideologies that are 100% against that Word. Gender dysphoria is a mental issue that should be addressed by parents on behalf of their minor children and the state should have no say in how that is done. I do not appreciate the overreach of state government in matters that do not belong to them.
Nona Schaefer Against themselves	This bill is totally against parental rights and against rights provided in the United States Constitution including free speech and the right to pursue life, LIBERTY, and the pursuit of happiness. This bill is totally against my religious beliefs and is a precursor to having government raise and indoctrinate our children just as Hitler did starting in 1926 with the formation of Hitlerjugend. God created each person male or female, and we are to love that person just as God created them, in His image.
Kai Martinez For themselves	Thank you for reading this testimony today. I am for this bill because in this unprecedented time in our nations history, Transgender individuals are among the most vulnerable in the county right now. The children who are blessed enough to find the knowledge that they themselves are transgender, are ones that get to grow into a world that right now is questioning their right to exist. Their right to express who they know they are. Names are words we use to conceptualize and identify humans around us. It is the first thing some people learn about you, and sometimes the only thing they know of you. We wear our names like badges of honor! Some of us chose them, like how my cis man friend Richard has only ever liked to be called Rich. To be called someone something they do not wish to be called is derogatory. It is sensationalized by some of the opposition, they would feel just as disrespected and hurt if their adults in their lives never cared to even call them what they want. The world is following a trend of trusting kids with how they feel. Gender affirming care, changing my name and markers, and HRT has saved millions. I knew who I was in middle school as a trans individual the moment I developed as a "woman". I was always one of the boys even when I wasn't, to my peers, to my parents who abused me for who I was like many parents do, and the adults that helped me through my difficulties in childhood and early adulthood. The science is being ignored by the opposition, studies in other countries that are much more scientific minded than the United States prove that transgender individuals have less regrets than a knee replacement. And even here, this is proven everyday by the lives of transgender kids, youth, and adults. The overwhelming amount of opposition does not reflect the state as a whole, though they are loud, persistent and personal in their attacks they only know how to fear monger and game this fragile and now turbulent system in the United States. I urge a yes vote to save children, that will grow into independent and wonderful adults no matter their gender.
Dewey Burke Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech.

	Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Kyre Chamberlain For themselves	I am writing today in support of HB25-1312 which provides essential protections for the transgender community of Colorado. As a mental health professional and an LGBTQIA+ community member, I am a strong proponent of the protections offered. Our trans community members are at elevated risk for a variety of mental and physical health issues, all of which are exacerbated by discrimination and abuse; this bill proposes measures to address and discourage this abuse. It also includes protections for your transgender youth, protections which can prove lifesaving to our most vulnerable kids. Additionally, the bill proposes protections for all Colorado community members from interference by other states into how we treat our own. I firmly endorse this bill as a way to continue to protect our community and to continue setting an example for our nation prioritizing our independence and our people.
Kendra Christian Against themselves	I am speaking in opposition of this bill because it harms rather than protects transgender people, is in violation of the first amendment rights of all people, and is an usurpation of state power over the rights of the individual. It is discriminatory by nature and should be struck in its entirety. It seeks to coerce children into a transgender identity by criminalizing all discussion that questions or is in opposition to a gender dysphoric and trans specific diagnosis and subsequent experimental social and medical treatment referred to in this bill as gender affirming care. Over 70 Genders are recognized. While it is negligent at best for medical practitioners to prescribe social affirmation, hormone therapy and irreversible medical procedures to a gender dysphoric child who could very well be gender fluid or any of the other 68 recognized genders or simply be experiencing the normal pangs of human development, it is beyond any function of the state to impose this treatment by criminalizing all objection to it and compelling speech in support of it. While suicidal ideation in youth is a serious concern, gender affirming care is only one form of care and one diagnosis and this bill limits consideration for the countless other issues

	possibly at hand including but not limited to, over sexualization (now institutionalized in our schools and media), verbal abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, incessant screen time often on social media which is known to destroy dopamine receptors, bullying, etc...All of these things are especially traumatic to children and can result in depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation and gender dysphoria. Even in adulthood, transgender individuals who undergo gender-affirmation surgery show a 12.12 fold increase in attempted suicide. That is a 1,100% increase. The tenant of gender affirming care relies on the belief that biological sex does not determine gender but that changing biological sexual characteristics can affirm gender. This is a metaphysical belief and logical contradiction and is not within the power of the state to impose. All humans arrive in this world with the world already existing. What we are and why we are here is the great conversation of life and no one can claim to know the answer to this. Gender ideology is one of many answers to the complex difficulties of existence and it certainly is not the job of the Colorado State Legislature to impose it. I request a no vote on the remaining tenants of this bill. Thank you,
jason mietchen Against themselves	I am urging you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill is violation of the Colorado law. Colorado law recognizes that parents have a fundamental right and responsibility to make decisions about their children's care, custody, and control, and to act in their best interests. This bill is designed to strip parental rights and give them to the State. This bill is ripe for abuse by ex spouses with ill will, by government officials playing parent of children that are not theirs. If there are questions about sexuality, or any developmental issue for that matter, those issues should be addressed by the family and their medical provider. The same people pushing this bill have for years supported the mantra "keep the government out of our bedrooms" or "keep government hands off my uterus". Likewise keep the government out of my house and keep your hands off our children. Vote NO on this bill.
Benjamin Graham For themselves	I am writing to strongly encourage you to vote YES on House Bill 25-1312. I am a Denver resident and have taught human sexuality for 10 years at the university level, where I have heard heartfelt stories and experiences of students across the political spectrum and across gender identities. I know dozens of trans/nonbinary people who are thriving and are wonderful people. I have also heard the prejudice, harassment, and struggle they have endured due to the prejudices of others. I have three main points I want to make. 1. First, I want to make clear as a professor and clinician who teaches abnormal psychology and served as a licensed therapist for 5 years, that it is NOT the intention of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5-TR) to treat as broken or disordered those diagnosed with "Gender Dysphoria." It is deeply and widely accepted within professional organizations such as the American Psychological Association that this designation is largely included to interface with the U.S. medical system, specifically such that transgender and nonbinary people seeking gender-affirming care can get the services they deserve and need. The profession does not consider such individuals to be 'broken' or 'sick', and it is

	opportunistic and offensive for naive 'No' proponents to abuse the DSM, and people, in this way. 2. The significance of House Bill 25-1312 in terms of deadnaming cannot be understated. I want to deeply underscore that it is not about 1, 2, or even 3-time accidental misgendering (it happens in queer communities all the time!); it's about someone fully knowing their coworker, fellow student, or staff members pronouns, then routinely and intentionally using the wrong pronouns when they are told not to (in this way, it is likened to establishing patterns of sexual harassment). As well all know, there is an entire and brutal system that has constructed a scapegoat in the transgender and nonbinary experience, and this 1-1 act of harassment of intentional deadnaming is psychologically, emotionally, and even potentially financially harmful to trans/nonbinary people, and why you should vote "YES" on HB 25-1312. 3. Lastly, I am a Catholic that strongly sees, acknowledges, loves, and supports transgender and nonbinary people, and wish for a Colorado where they are not harassed in schools or workplaces through deadnaming and other means, can access the medical services they need, and are treated as full equals. I am disheartened by Catholics who attempt to speak for me and others within the Church like me. HB 25-1312 will offer important new protections, in a country whose othering and scapegoating ideological tactics have literally kicked out 13,000 servicepeople from our military--each well trained, qualified, willing to die for their country, and whose inclusion was defended by their generals. A YES on HB 25-1312 helps Colorado be a model for inclusion. Just last Sunday afternoon, I celebrated with two friends, both Catholic nuns in their 80's, and their friends on the wonderful, 50-year run of the Denver Catholic Worker House, where all are welcome. These people know true faith, and the love for all that comes with it. In the words of Dorothy Day, "I never put much confidence in the bishops, my faith is with the saints." Thank you.
Amy Diamond For themselves	Hello Madam Chair and Committee Members, I am writing in strong support of HB24-1312. This bill is fundamentally about common decency. We can't wait for folks who don't understand or accept the experiences of transgender individuals, or those representing interests of particular religions, to realize that all is being asked by it is to extend the same basic humanity that we as a society have learned to do when it comes to all kinds of populations: people of color, women, minority-religion adherents, disabled, lgb, for instance. Unfortunately, people can't be relied on to reach conclusions about what empathy would otherwise convey without being compelled to when it challenges deeply-rooted belief systems or taps into traumas or fears. As a psychiatric NP, I am frustrated by the way my profession is weaponized and slandered by opponents who have no idea what goes on within our spaces, using the confidentiality and privacy our patients are entitled to trot out macabre lies. I have seen and treated hundreds of children who have had been bullied at school, but zero who have been lured, enticed, coerced into transgenderism. Most of the time, they

	are bullied because of being different - transgender, autistic, gay, disabled, for example. Pressure is always to conform - this is part of the human condition. In fact, the pressure to conform to religious social-programming has contributed to the suffering of countless patients, young and old. I hear their own stories from them that they cannot tell elsewhere, and when they can no longer be who they were instructed and expected to be. By the one doctor's own argument (testifying today) about the protracted developmental processes, people shouldn't be allowed to join the military or getting married and having kids until their 30s. The reality though is that recognize the right of kids to get confidential psychotherapy in this state at age 12, which speaks to the recognition of that child's developing autonomy. Also, the doctor saying it doesn't require specialized treatment settings said, "I guess", for a reason: he's guessing, and guessing very wrong. Please vote yes and codify what we can't realistically expect everyone to grasp the significance of to those it protects and supports. Thank you, Amy Diamond, MA, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC
Martha Kallestad Against themselves	Dear Senators and Governor Polis, I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you please do not destroy freedom in Colorado! The fact that this bill was rushed through the house on Sunday, silencing the voices of the voters and parents and cutting off critical debate is extremely disturbing. This bill is an egregious overreach of families and threatens not only parents but every Colorado school, business, and public institution by forcing them to comply with government mandated speech and ideology. Under HB25-1312, using a child's given name or acknowledging biological sex could trigger lawsuits, loss of custody, or civil penalties. Schools would be required to hide gender identity changes from parents. This is not protection but coercion. HB25-1312's broad and vague language will create fear, confusion, tragic destruction of families and I fear a mass exodus from Colorado to other states. I have already seen a lot of for sale signs on houses in our neighborhood. For the sake of our families, our schools, our businesses, and the future of our beautiful state of Colorado, I respectfully urge you to please vote NO on HB25-1312.

John Grissom Against themselves	This is destructive for youths and families it also puts the state in an adversarial position.
John Stennes For themselves	TGE individuals face a disproportionate number of mental health concerns compared to their cisgender and LGBTQ+ counterparts (Carmel & Erickson-Schroth, 2016; Su et al., 2016; Pinna et al., 2022). Using self-report survey data, Su et al. (2016) found that transgender individuals were more likely to report depressive symptoms and suicide attempts compared to non-TGE LGB individuals. More specifically, TGE youth have been found to be twice as likely to experience depressed mood and suicidal self-directed violence risk compared to their cisgender LGBTQ+ peers (Price-Feeney et al., 2020). Additionally, Hunter et al. (2021) used a cross-sectional design focusing on impacts of gender minority stress on TGE youth aged 16-25 years, and found that TGE youth were more likely to experience higher anxiety and lower well being compared to their cisgender counterparts (Hunter et al., 2021). A survey study done by Barr et al. (2022) with 575 TGE participants (aged 18-73) showed that 93% of participants experienced potentially traumatic events (PTEs) related to their gender identities. Reisner et al. (2016) found using self-report survey that TGE individuals over the age of 18 meet criteria for PTSD at much higher rates than the general population (17.5%-45% compared to 5%-10%). Both these studies highlight the roles identity trauma and discrimination based on gender identity have on TGE individuals and their mental health outcomes. Even more, TGE individuals over the age of 18 face high rates of discrimination, including harassment, gender-based violence, housing discrimination, and employment discrimination (Kattari et al., 2016; Casey et al., 2019; Wirtz, et al., 2018; Suárez et al., 2020). These findings highlight what factors not only impact mental health outcomes, but what factors may make mental health outcomes worse when in tandem with prior existing mental health concerns. Very few studies have been done on TGE youth related to these factors, but of those who have been surveyed, TGE adolescents self-reported sexual harassment at statistically significant higher levels compared to their cisgender peers (Kaltiala & Ellonen, 2022). Although these are just some of the stressors the broader TGE community face, some TGE individuals may be less likely to access necessary care due to anticipated discrimination and fear of mistreatment (Kmont et al., 2020b). There is also evidence from the American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA) that within the broader TGE community, those with eating disorders (EDs) have significantly higher self-injurious thoughts and behaviors (SITBs) compared to cisgender individuals with EDs and TGE individuals without EDs (Duffy et al., 2019). What is especially troubling about this finding is that TGE individuals (including TGE youth) are disproportionately impacted by EDs as has been shown in several self-report survey studies among college samples and community youth samples (Diemer et al., 2015; Watson et al., 2017). A review of the literature completed by Coelho et al. (2019) found that food restriction and/or compensatory behaviors in TGE youth (aged 8-25) to prevent puberty onset or progression were consistently reported across studies (Coelho et al., 2019).

	Although most studies on mental health trends of TGE individuals focus on adults, the studies on TGE youth stand out, as they point to concerning experiences and behaviors that may carry into adulthood. This is especially important to consider when working with TGE youth who may not have caregiver support, or if there is state-level legislation that prevents providers from providing empirically supported medical GAC. However, even without access to medical GAC, mental health clinicians can still work with TGE youth and caregivers to build resiliency factors while discussing decision-making strategies related to care. Additionally, even without access to medical GAC, supportive caregivers are often an important buffer for TGE youth, and it is important to understand supportive processes.
Jeffrey Roster Against himself	The proposal of this bill is madness!! Are the thoughts and feelings of adolescent children always true? Our educators have educated our nation's population with a horrible lie! They taught our children that their individual perception of reality was true. That if you feel something is true then it is true. Nonsense!! Parents are responsible for protecting their children from the lies of the world. Parents will make errors because they are human, and they will believe lies themselves because they don't always know the truth. So too, the State government will make errors because they are human, and they will believe lies because they don't always know the truth. A parent is always responsible for their children, and they will be held accountable for the results of their parenting. A governing body will NEVER be held accountable for the lies they are planning to force parents to enforce. VOTE NO ON HB-1312!! For heaven's sake.

MaryAnn Jensen Against themselves	God said that he made a boy & a girl they way they are it is biblical. We are not to try and change or gender God said so. He made us wonderful & perfect the way we are. Thank you! Jesus is LORD. Blessings.
Donna LaBelle Against themselves	Chair Gonzalez and the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Donna LaBelle and I speak on behalf of the freedom which this bill threatens. When I was young, I would often say, "It's a free country." but through the years there has been a covert plan to change that. Hidden because too many think like I do. And after getting a foothold, the attack is now out in the open and we have continued to steadily lose freedoms. It is an established, documented fact that we are one nation under God through a covenant, and our laws are based on His word. This bill creates concepts and definitions from an ideology that risks punishing parents for their beliefs – beliefs in science, based truth that has not come up for debate for thousands of years. This threatens parental rights and free speech, making this bill, a terrible overreach and a theft of our constitutional rights. Never forget that freedom is in our very DNA and as our good rep often says "vigilance is the price of freedom". We have been asleep and we find ourselves deceived. Such a shame! But if we have awakened and do nothing, the shame is on us. Know this: no matter what it looks like, God always wins in the end. I ask him to bless every testifier and every senator with exactly what each one needs and I ask you to vote no on HB 25-1312. Thank you
Bethany Hradecky Against themselves	This bill makes a discriminatory act to misgender or deadname a child/kid - it will also allow the courts to strip a parent of their rights to their child if they are obtaining a divorce and don't agree with their child getting gender affirming care - 100% custody would go to the supporting parent. It also protects teachers from getting fired for not sharing information (with the kid's parents) about students who are trans or want a name change at school. This is dangerous because parents who don't support gender affirming care for their child could be held legally responsible and even lose custody. It gives power to kids and the state over the parents. It's truly evil. I may not agree with my child's decisions but it doesn't mean I won't love them and care & provide for them. Therefore, no one should be able to take my children away from me.
Frances Jaffe For themselves	I am supportive of adding the considerations of deadnaming and misgendering as part of considerations in court procedures. It's a way to keep in mind and support the health and well being of a child.
Brandon Dawes For themselves	Inclusive legislation creates stronger, more cohesive communities that can navigate social and economic challenges more effectively. The research supports the protections proposed in this bill as a comprehensive, non-discriminatory set of

	policies to protect the identity development of children. The following theories and and large peer-reviewed research studies support these claims. Minority Stress Theory: According to this framework, transgender people experience chronic stress from societal stigma, discrimination, and internalized transphobia. Misgendering and deadnaming are forms of identity-based microaggressions that contribute to cumulative stress and trauma. Trevor Project Study on Anti-Trans Laws and Youth Suicide (2024): A peer-reviewed study published in Nature Human Behavior by The Trevor Project found that anti-transgender laws—such as bathroom bans and restrictions on gender marker updates—are linked to a significant increase in suicide attempts among transgender and nonbinary youth aged 13 to 17. Specifically, suicide attempts increased by 7% to 72% in states that enacted such laws. The study concluded that these policies exacerbate societal stigma and mistreatment, leading to higher suicide risks among affected youth. University of Texas at Austin Study on Chosen Name Use (2018) Research led by Stephen T. Russell and published in the Journal of Adolescent Health demonstrated that transgender youth who could use their chosen names in multiple contexts (home, school, work, and with friends) experienced: 71% fewer symptoms of severe depression 34% fewer instances of suicidal ideation 65% reduction in suicide attempts This study highlights the protective mental health benefits of affirming a transgender person's chosen name across various social environments. When inclusive legislation and the comprehensive protections within are passed, consistent affirmation of gender identity, including using chosen names and pronouns, has a protective effect on mental health. The American Psychological Association (APA) emphasizes that gender-affirming behaviors by family, schools, and communities are critical for healthy development and well-being. Trans people in Colorado deserve to live with dignity, safety, and peace. Affirming a transgender person's name and pronouns is a simple yet powerful way to support their mental health, and repeated denial of this affirmation is psychologically harmful and linked to serious outcomes, especially among youth.

	This bill represents an important step in Colorado’s efforts to provide comprehensive legal protections for the transgender community and while Colorado has demonstrated a historical and advancing commitment to protecting transgender rights through progressive legislation, Transgender people in Colorado deserve to live with dignity, safety, and peace, through this protection backed by law.
Linda Yeager Against themselves	Children are a gift, a trust from God to parents. We are designed to bond with our children even before they are born. Parents know their kids and have seen them grow and develop throughout their lives. Yes sometimes there are failures and abuse that happen in homes and the state steps in to assist. This needs to be for real abuse and not some manufactured abuse based on pure animus to the parent’s religion or reality based world view and not support for some new (and increasingly discredited ideology that gender is based on feeling and not biology). When the state does step in the abuses and inadequacies of the system are legendary and frequently the greater harm is done. Children are not assigned a sex at birth! The doctor identifies the sex of the child at birth. Every cell in their body is stamped with that sex. This sex cannot be changed by arrogant and dangerous medical and surgical manipulation of the child. We create Frankensteinian, sterile, medicalized expensive patients for life with such manipulation. The drug companies are growing richer supporting such non FDA approved, dangerous treatment. They are causing osteoporosis, heart disease, cancers, neurological problems, and increasing the risk of mental illness and suicide in these children. The supposed medical consensus supporting this treatment comes from ideology and manipulation out of WPATH and not any careful scientific studies. Parents of kids struggling with such issues need to be supported inter quest to help their kids deal with reality and accept their changing developing bodies. The state should not be pushing hypersexualized stereotyped gender ideology.
Kyle Kingston For themselves	You either give a damn about trans people, or you don’t. The protections in this bill are so obvious, so basic, so bare-minimally decent that our need to debate them should make us all ashamed. But here we are, putting the safety and well-being of vulnerable people at risk to allow a few bullies the forum to pretend that their bigotry matters more than human lives. I could quote statistics at you, but you know all the relevant ones, or should. Which means you know this bill could save lives. So. You either give a damn about trans people, or you don’t.
Rennei Coleman Against themselves	Dear Senators and Governor Polis, I am Writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you—do not destroy freedom in Colorado!

	This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday, silencing the voices of concerned Coloradans and cutting off critical debate. That alone should raise alarms about the process. Even more concerning is that this bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children. Parents—not the government—know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are best equipped to make decisions about their children’s well-being. This bill tramples constitutional rights and turns loving parents into criminals simply for protecting their children. We are not criminals. We are parents. This bill doesn’t just target parents—it threatens every Colorado school, business, and public institution by forcing them to comply with government-mandated speech and ideology. Under HB25-1312, using a child’s given name or acknowledging biological sex could trigger lawsuits, loss of custody, or civil penalties. Schools would be forced to hide gender identity changes from parents. Businesses—including faith-based organizations—would be compelled to affirm ideas they do not believe, or face legal action. This is not protection—it is coercion. HB25-1312’s vague, broad language will create fear, confusion, and the tragic destruction of families. It will chill free speech, force ideological compliance, and pit the state against its own citizens. Colorado citizens should never fear government retaliation for speaking biological truth or standing by their convictions. For the sake of our families, our schools, our businesses, and the future of Colorado, I respectfully urge you: stand for parental rights, protect freedom, and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Susan Roberts For herself	As the mother of a transgender person, I am asking you to support HB-1312. Transgender individuals deserve to have equal rights. They should not be discriminated against in any way whether it be in schools, the workplace or in public spaces. My daughter came home one day and was very upset. A man followed her from a grocery store to a gas station. He made sure she saw that he was wearing a gun in a holster on his hip. He told her that people like her aren’t welcome here. She was terrified and I was extremely angry that this happened to her. Trans people need to be protected, not discriminated against. I especially want her to be able to use the restroom that matches her gender identity without fear of reprisal. I am horrified by the anti-trans agenda of the Trump administration. I want Colorado to remain a safe place for all transgender people. I want their rights protected in every way.

Christine Cutler Against themselves	Dear Senators and Governor Polis, I am Writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you—do not destroy freedom in Colorado! This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday, silencing the voices of concerned Coloradans and cutting off critical debate. That alone should raise alarms about the process. Even more concerning is that this bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children. Parents—not the government—know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are best equipped to make decisions about their children’s well-being. This bill tramples constitutional rights and turns loving parents into criminals simply for protecting their children. We are not criminals. We are parents. This bill doesn’t just target parents—it threatens every Colorado school, business, and public institution by forcing them to comply with government-mandated speech and ideology. Under HB25-1312, using a child’s given name or acknowledging biological sex could trigger lawsuits, loss of custody, or civil penalties. Schools would be forced to hide gender identity changes from parents. Businesses—including faith-based organizations—would be compelled to affirm ideas they do not believe, or face legal action. This is not protection—it is coercion. HB25-1312’s vague, broad language will create fear, confusion, and the tragic destruction of families. It will chill free speech, force ideological compliance, and pit the state against its own citizens. Colorado citizens should never fear government retaliation for speaking biological truth or standing by their convictions. For the sake of our families, our schools, our businesses, and the future of Colorado, I respectfully urge you: stand for parental rights, protect freedom, and vote NO on HB25-1312. Kind Regards, Christine Cutler
Caeli Hill For themselves	Please pass this law and allow trans people to live in dignity and be provided the same protections as anyone else. There is data to support that when people are repeatedly dead named, misgendered, and denied gender-affirming care, that rates of mental distress and even suicide go up. Further, a person’s chosen gender should not be a factor in their behavior in court. Please pass this law to protect our trans brothers and sisters.

Laura Fry Against themselves	Dear Senators and Governor Polis, I am Writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you—do not destroy freedom in Colorado! This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday, silencing the voices of concerned Coloradans and cutting off critical debate. That alone should raise alarms about the process. Even more concerning is that this bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children. Parents—not the government—know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are best equipped to make decisions about their children’s well-being. This bill tramples constitutional rights and turns loving parents into criminals simply for protecting their children. We are not criminals. We are parents. This bill doesn’t just target parents—it threatens every Colorado school, business, and public institution by forcing them to comply with government-mandated speech and ideology. Under HB25-1312, using a child’s given name or acknowledging biological sex could trigger lawsuits, loss of custody, or civil penalties. Schools would be forced to hide gender identity changes from parents. Businesses—including faith-based organizations—would be compelled to affirm ideas they do not believe, or face legal action. This is not protection—it is coercion. HB25-1312’s vague, broad language will create fear, confusion, and the tragic destruction of families. It will chill free speech, force ideological compliance, and pit the state against its own citizens. Colorado citizens should never fear government retaliation for speaking biological truth or standing by their convictions. For the sake of our families, our schools, our businesses, and the future of Colorado, I respectfully urge you: stand for parental rights, protect freedom, and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Michael Coyle For themselves	I fully support this bill. ALL people deserve protection of their fundamental rights, regardless of race, religion, orientation, or gender identity. To deny that protection is to violate the intent of the constitution. It is sad that pro-protection legislation is even necessary, as these truths should be self evident. Thank you!
Taylor Aguilera Against themselves	The proposal of this bill is madness!!

	Are the thoughts and feelings of adolescent children always true? Our educators have educated our nation's population with a horrible lie! They taught our children that their individual perception of reality was true. That if you feel something is true then it is true. Nonsense!! Parents are responsible for protecting their children from the lies of the world. Parents will make errors because they are human, and they will believe lies themselves because they don't always know the truth. So too, the State government will make errors because they are human, and they will believe lies because they don't always know the truth. A parent is always responsible for their children, and they will be held accountable for the results of their parenting. A governing body will NEVER be held accountable for the lies they are planning to force parents to enforce. VOTE NO ON HB-1312!!

Ryan Burson Against himself	Certainly. Here's your revised testimony as a father, now including a clear reference to constitutional and parental rights being undermined by HB25-1312: --- Chairperson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Ryan, and I am a father and a resident of Colorado. I come before you today with deep concern and strong opposition to House Bill 25-1312. As a parent, I believe my most sacred duty is to protect and raise my children with wisdom, compassion, and care. HB25-1312 threatens to strip me—and thousands of parents like me—of the right to do just that. This bill allows one parent to accuse another of “coercive control” or emotional abuse simply for disagreeing about a child’s expressed gender identity. There is no requirement for clinical verification or demonstrated consistency in the child’s expression. That means a parent who thoughtfully questions, delays medical decisions, or encourages open dialogue could face accusations and potentially lose custody—not because they are abusive, but because they are cautious and involved. This directly infringes on my First Amendment rights—my freedom to express concern, to ask questions, and to raise my child according to my conscience and values. It also undermines my Fourteenth Amendment rights to due process and equal protection under the law. HB25-1312 effectively redefines disagreement as abuse, which is a dangerous precedent in any society governed by the Constitution. While I fully support protecting vulnerable children and ensuring every person is treated with dignity, HB25-1312 does not achieve that in a balanced or just way. Instead, it opens the door for misuse in custody disputes and erodes the foundational rights of parents to be part of crucial decisions in their children's lives. I urge you to vote NO on HB25-1312. Thank you for your service and for listening to a father who simply wants to protect his role, his family, and his rights under the law.

	Respectfully, Ryan Burson Ignacio, Colorado
Kent Cutler Against himself	Dear Senators and Governor Polis, I am Writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you—do not destroy freedom in Colorado! This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday, silencing the voices of concerned Coloradans and cutting off critical debate. That alone should raise alarms about the process. Even more concerning is that this bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children. Parents—not the government—know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are best equipped to make decisions about their children’s well-being. This bill tramples constitutional rights and turns loving parents into criminals simply for protecting their children. We are not criminals. We are parents. This bill doesn’t just target parents—it threatens every Colorado school, business, and public institution by forcing them to comply with government-mandated speech and ideology. Under HB25-1312, using a child’s given name or acknowledging biological sex could trigger lawsuits, loss of custody, or civil penalties. Schools would be forced to hide gender identity changes from parents. Businesses—including faith-based organizations—would be compelled to affirm ideas they do not believe, or face legal action. This is not protection—it is coercion. HB25-1312’s vague, broad language will create fear, confusion, and the tragic destruction of families. It will chill free speech, force ideological compliance, and pit the state against its own citizens. Colorado citizens should never fear government retaliation for speaking biological truth or standing by their convictions. For the sake of our families, our schools, our businesses, and the future of Colorado, I respectfully urge you: stand for parental rights, protect freedom, and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Diane Will Against himself	I am against this bill because it takes away parental rights for parents to decide what is best for their children. This bill would tear families apart and be a huge infringement on my freedom of speech and the freedom to raise my child the way I decide. No one knows my child better than me and the government should not be

	involved in my decisions or parental rights. It also is a violation to manipulate the school system as a means of indoctrinating children to this ideology. Please vote against this bill
Matthew Muckleroy Against themselves	Good afternoon, I'm writing in today because my work has not allowed me to be in person. However, this bill is an issue that is important enough to me that I find the need to write in concerning my opposition to this piece of legislation. My wife and I are expecting our first child this year, and are excited to have the opportunity to raise our son. This bill directly limits my freedom and my ability to raise my son in accordance with my sincerely held beliefs. This bill makes me nervous that the state will take coercive action against me and my wife because we do not agree with the way that this bill defines a child's gender. I have lived in Colorado my entire life. I sincerely believe that this state is the most beautiful state in the Union. And I would be devastated if the actions of this state made it so that me and my family were unable to exercise our freedom and parental rights. I sincerely ask this comity to consider the rights of those who disagree with this legislation. We have not attacked the parental rights of those who disagree with us. We have not sought to take away their right to speak. Please do not take this action against the many parents in this state who are doing their best to raise their children in accordance with our sincerely held beliefs and convictions.
Savanna Miller Against themselves	Parents know what is best for the well being of their children. Why are there permission slips for silly field trips, because parental consent is important. Why can't children get tattoos or piercings till 18, transgenerness is a more severe body modification than a picture in the skin or a ring in the nose! When I was in middle school I considered myself to be bi-sexual and identified as a male. If the resources were available to me when I didn't even know myself yet, I would've made a huge mistake if my parents weren't the voice of truth. I would have transitioned at a point of no return, i wouldnt have my beautiful baby boy. I would've more than likely, at the mental state i was in, committed suicide. No child should make these decisions till they are the age of adult decisions like drinking and smoking which is 21 here in Colorado. I stand firm in this, these children need to find them selves before they decide something so permanent.
Donna Scarrow Against themselves	As a former Child and Family Investigator, I understand the importance of parental rights. It should not be an easy thing for the State or anyone to take your children away from you. Parents are the legal guardians of their children! Currently, we have plenty of laws that protect the safety of children from parental abuse, and procedures in place to remove the children during an investigation, and possibly moving into termination of parental rights. However, this bill sets a very dangerous precedent. Our own governor is in a same sex marriage with children; many believe that is harmful to a child. However, they should never have the right to come in and remove his children. Parents have the right to bring their children up with the same religious beliefs, ideals, and morals that they themselves hold.
CHRISTINE CULLEN Against themselves	Dear Senators and Governor Polis, I am Writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you—do not destroy freedom in Colorado!

	This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday, silencing the voices of concerned Coloradans and cutting off critical debate. That alone should raise alarms about the process. Even more concerning is that this bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children. Parents—not the government—know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are best equipped to make decisions about their children’s well-being. This bill tramples constitutional rights and turns loving parents into criminals simply for protecting their children. We are not criminals. We are parents. This bill doesn’t just target parents—it threatens every Colorado school, business, and public institution by forcing them to comply with government-mandated speech and ideology. Under HB25-1312, using a child’s given name or acknowledging biological sex could trigger lawsuits, loss of custody, or civil penalties. Schools would be forced to hide gender identity changes from parents. Businesses—including faith-based organizations—would be compelled to affirm ideas they do not believe, or face legal action. This is not protection—it is coercion. HB25-1312’s vague, broad language will create fear, confusion, and the tragic destruction of families. It will chill free speech, force ideological compliance, and pit the state against its own citizens. Colorado citizens should never fear government retaliation for speaking biological truth or standing by their convictions. For the sake of our families, our schools, our businesses, and the future of Colorado, I respectfully urge you: stand for parental rights, protect freedom, and vote NO on HB25-1312. Christine Cullen
Nicoletta Coyle For herself	I and all of my trans friends personally face discrimination, harassment, and abuse every day. I have personally received death threats simply for sole reason that I am trans. A friend of mine suffered a brain injury while in the military she was beaten by her fellow soldiers (the abusers, though caught, faced no repercussions while she, the victim, was discharged) I am trans because I know it to be so. I faced more than 30 years of my life wishing I was a girl, knowing I was a girl, watching my body morph grotesquely into something that my brain was screaming that it was not, all while not having anyone to help me navigate those feelings. After more than 30 years I simply couldn't take that anguish any more. I was living a lie and decided to do something about it

	I no longer live a lie. I live authentically. I live a good life as a woman. My brain is no longer in anguish Intentionally deadnaming and/or misgendering us forces us to feel that anguish again. It forces us to feel the lie we were once living. We're not talking about accidents here. Those happen to me every day and I am more than mentally capable of handling that and politely advocating for myself to prevent it from happening in the future. It becomes abusive when it's intentional, repetitive, and/or systematic deadnaming and misgendering. Because there is no reason that anyone would do that INTENTIONALLY unless they were trying to CAUSE anguish. Intentionally causing anguish is abusive behavior no matter how you look at it As for being affirming for our child. It is my belief that if a child is telling their parents they are trans and one parent is refusing to accept that, then they are simply not accepting of their child. Shouldn't we be listening to the parental rights of those who accept their child over than those who do NOT accept their child? Should we not be concerned about someone having custody of a child if they simply cannot accept their child by their core nature? Lastly, I will simply say that we are all human. Love your neighbor. Accept people who are different to yourself. Have empathy and compassion for human beings. Is that so hard? I personally think it's the easiest thing in the world.
Adrienne Telman Against themselves	Please vote NO!
Michael Moline Against themselves	Dear Representatives Lorena García and Rebekah Stewart, and Senators Faith Winter and Chris Kolker: Thank you for your concern for children wrestling with gender identity issues. I would, however, protest against HB25-1312, "Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals," as misguided in the following ways: (1) Parents care deeply and personally for their children. Inserting the power of the State of Colorado between parents and children will profoundly disrupt relationships a child needs in order to thrive, even in a difficult situation. (2) Individuals wrestling with gender identity challenges do need unconditional love and acceptance. This love and acceptance is best provided by the parents, even when the relationship is difficult. How much better is it for parents and children to find necessary resources within their own relational networks than for the State of

	Colorado to become involved in a profoundly complex and difficult situation? Even though sorting out relationships takes time, the appropriate caregivers for children are their parents, and not the State of Colorado, on this issue. (3) As well-meaning as this bill is, the State of Colorado will be morally responsible for all of the unintended and unwanted consequences. As Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King observed in quoting Theodore Parker, "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Not only justice in terms of those seeking affirmation of a gender different from their birth gender, but justice in terms of broken-hearted parents who loved their children more deeply and personally than the State of Colorado can; justice in terms of children who are encouraged by the State of Colorado to pursue courses of action that may seem at present to be wise and good but ultimately prove to be destructive; and justice in the eyes of God who designed families, not the State, to be the primary caregiver for their children. God does indeed call us all to justice: "No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." God is the one who designed the family. To act against His design is to walk proudly, and not humbly, into a space the State of Colorado was never intended to be in. Do you seek justice for children wrestling with gender identity issues? Then seek to understand how to build up the family as the primary caregiver seeking the best long-term interests of the children. Support the family, and not the state, in this issue. Respectfully pleading with you, and praying for you, Mike Moline
Heather Thronton Against herself	I am sending this today asking that the Senate vote unanimously against HB25-1312. I am so thankful that I did not grow up at this time. When I was a young child, I wanted to be a boy. Now that I am older, I thank God He made me a woman. So I am a living example of the fact that children do not know what they want. They say one thing one minute and then change their minds the next. (By "changing thier sex" their lives are ruined. Check out the testimonies of people who have had the "sex change" if you truly care) It's been that way way for generations! I am also a firm believer in the fact that government needs to stay out of family affairs! It is not government's place to tell parents what they can and cannot call their children. God gave that child to those parents, not to the government. Please put an end to this heinous bill. Please, say no. Vote down this measure. Thank you for your time.

Carmela Coyle For themselves	I support, and am for Trans rights #1312. As the parent of a trans daughter, there is nothing more important than for her to have the same rights as myself. Thank you. Carmela Coyle
Tomi Grundvig Against themselves	HB25-1312 must be rejected as it is in opposition to the right of conscience which is a founding principle of this nation. The "Kelly Loving Act" that is proposed would force individuals to act and speak in ways that our conscience cannot allow. I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and in 1995 our First Presidency issued a Proclamation to the Family which clearly proclaims that "All human beings-male and female-are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divining nature and destiny. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose." This is my stated belief, and because of that I cannot refer to someone by another pronoun that is not consistent with their eternal gender. I recognize that others may not share that belief, but it is my belief, and HB25-1312 would force legal consequences for my right to conscience. It would be forcing me to speak untruths simply because someone demands it as "their truth". Again, I do not expect that anyone has to follow the Family Proclamation from my church if they do not believe, but neither should I be forced to speak or act on "their truth". The "Kelly Loving Act" is not a loving act to me or my rights or those who feel as I do regardless of their faith, but according to their right to conscience. On that founding principle alone, this bill must be rejected. Thank you, Tomi Grundvig. Loveland Colorado.
Sarah Muckleroy Against themselves	As a second generation Colorado native and soon-to-be-mother, I completely oppose this piece of legislation. As a parent, I have chosen to take full responsibility for my child until they are 18 years old, this means that their choices - both good and bad - fall under mine and my husbands authority and jurisdiction. I believe this bill would infringe upon my right as a parent and potentially threaten the custody I have over my child. Both as a parent and an American citizen, free speech and religious liberty are fundamental to my life in this country. This bill would coerce compelled speech that is a false misrepresentation of a child's true sex and identity. I ask that you would vote NO on this bill and protect the rights of parents in this state.
Abalean Miller Against themselves	The mental state of these children are at declining. The answer is not to affirm it is to help them understand the truth about who they are at this stage. The legal adult age is 18. The legal drinking and smoking age is 21. Yet the frontal lobe of a human being brain is not fully developed until the age of 26. The frontal lobe is essential in decision making, so why would we allow or encourage a child who doesn't have the ability to make sound decisions to completely alter their body that they will have to live with for the rest of their life. If they choose to make that decision later that is their decision, but we can not allow young children to make life altering decisions before they have even experienced life.
Amy Persons-Birch	I respectfully oppose HB25-1312, as I believe it represents an overreach of governmental authority and imposes burdensome regulations that may have

Against themselves	unintended consequences for families, small businesses, and local communities. Legislation of this scope requires greater transparency, public input, and careful consideration of its long-term impacts. I urge lawmakers to prioritize policies that support individual rights, economic freedom, and support parental authority, rather than expanding state control in ways that risk undermining these fundamental values. Specifically, this bill will undermine parental rights, circumvent child protection laws, impose gender ideology in schools, and attack free speech and religious liberty. Sincerely, Amy Persons-Birch
Alexandra Maniscalco For themselves	As an educator, friend, and family member I engage with various transgender people throughout my day. I see the emotional turmoil caused by transgender rights being up for debate day after day. Living in fear that they cannot be who they are at their school, place of employment, or even public spaces. Rights that do not affect those of cisgender people, but greatly destroy both mentally and physically our diverse population of trans individuals. We as a nation condemn discrimination, why does that value need to cease for trans individuals?
Sable Polander For themselves	I am somebody who falls under the nonbinary/transgender umbrella, and I'd like to speak from the heart. Removing any sort of protection trans folks already have will inevitably result in many people not living a substantially successful life. I, for one, would not feel safe enough to leave my house for the sake of my daughter or feel safe enough to send her to a public school for fear of her being mistreated by me simply being her parent. Growing up, I had to find my own support outside of the home as my own mother didn't even know my favorite color, let alone understand me as an individual. My parents are extremely conservative and religious, so any sort of conversation regarding "I don't feel like a girl" would only result in "Why don't you pray about it, and God will help you see the light," type of responses. Even attending church as an adult felt wrong and uncomfortable because I don't exactly look like someone who would attend church. I got dirty looks all the time. People ignored me. I didn't receive any help or communication unless my parents were there. Because of this, I was too afraid to accept myself for who I was, too afraid to talk to anyone for years, and my life, my daughter's life, were threatened as a result. It was only when I started accepting myself as myself that I find my tribe, my people, folks that would go to bat for me and help me not to raise my daughter alone or in an unsafe environment. It was then that I no longer had to live in a place that was dangerous for a single parent and young child. My daughter and I felt safe in our community for the first time! And now, that feeling is being challenged.

	I know too many people who grew up in even worse households than me and have received death threats for just existing... We NEED protection. We NEED to have that support. We NEED to know that our livelihoods aren't going to be threatened by just existing. The Club Q tragedy wasn't just a tragedy. It was a planned and premeditated event. Which means, there are more people out there with hatred in their hearts that will plan and premeditate future attacks. People could be left without a parent, a child, a sibling, a godparent, a best friend, all because our lives don't matter as much as theirs. But trans lives matter! And trans rights are human rights!
Lianna Honeycutt Against themselves	This is absolutely ridiculous.
Andrew Watkins For themselves	With our rights being violated and eroded before our eyes by the federal government, it's now more important than ever to protect what rights we can. Especially for the most vulnerable groups. As someone who works at a queer and trans friendly space, I am in full support of this bill to protect the trans community and trans kids.
Conor Honeycutt Against themselves	This is absolutely ridiculous.
Tina Miller Against themselves	We the people need to take a stand against government overreach. Our children do not need to be forced into genocide at any age. Children are not allowed to drive until age 16, can't vote until 18, smoke or drink until 21 get tattooed piercing until 18 or even join the military until 18. Parents are supposed to protect the safety and welfare of their children not do harm. This type of behavior is unacceptable and should and was at one time considered child endangerment and abuse.
Karen Custer Against themselves	I am a Colorado native and I am writing to ask that you oppose HB1312! This bill represents an overreach by the state into matters that belong ONLY to parents and families. By introducing government-mandated ideology into school policy and law, and limiting the ability of Parents to be informed and involved, this bill WIL DO SO MUCH HARM. Families (PARENTS....NOT THE STATE...NOT THE SCHOOLS) HAVE the right to raise their children according to their values and faith. (NOT THE STATE) I urge you to stand up for parental rights and vote NO on this bill. Please protect what is most important as defined by God, our Creator. Please protect the freedoms and values that make our communities strong and diverse. Our state should be encouraging collaboration between schools, families, and communities—

	NOT replacing parents with policies. Please stand with families and say NO to this bill. Respectfully, Karen Custer
Ilya Debirov Against themselves	I am against this bill, It's evil, It takes away parents' rights. It's against biblical law, And against humanity. Bible definition is male and female that it. Kids can't make such decisions. If kids can't make decisions what time they should go to sleep, because parents do what is best for them, how they can decide what gender they be. ITS IS WRONG.
Destini Tocci Against themselves	Dear Senators and Governor Polis, I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you—do not destroy freedom in Colorado! This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday, silencing the voices of concerned Coloradans and cutting off critical debate. That alone should raise alarms about the process. Even more concerning is that this bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children. Parents—not the government—know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are best equipped to make decisions about their children's well-being. This bill tramples constitutional rights and turns loving parents into criminals simply for protecting their children. Parents are not criminals by just being a loving parent. This bill doesn't just target parents—it threatens every Colorado school, business, and public institution by forcing them to comply with government-mandated speech and ideology. Under HB25-1312, using a child's given name or acknowledging biological sex could trigger lawsuits, loss of custody, or civil penalties.

	Schools would be forced to hide gender identity changes from parents. Businesses—including faith-based organizations—would be compelled to affirm ideas they do not believe, or face legal action. This is not protection—it is coercion. HB25-1312's vague, broad language will create fear, confusion, and the tragic destruction of families. It will chill free speech, force ideological compliance, and pit the state against its own citizens. Colorado citizens should never fear government retaliation for speaking biological truth or standing by their convictions. For the sake of our families, our schools, our businesses, and the future of Colorado, I respectfully urge you: stand for parental rights, protect American freedoms, and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Emerald Holden Against themselves	Hello, I am writing today to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms! But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech and freedom of religion! Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. God entrusted PARENTS to raise up a child in the way they should go, NOT the government! What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — and most assuredly, in many cases, groomers, who have another dark agenda for ripping children out of their family unit and away from their parents. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. This bill also greatly infringes upon our religious freedoms by forcing teachers and school staff to comply with irrational policies that violate their religious and personal convictions. Faith based schools and organizations would also face legal challenges for upholding traditional and common sense views on gender. For the sake of our freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom to raise and love our children properly, I urge you all to stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312. Thank you.
Katherine Millice Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312.

	This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Jordan Telman Against themselves	I urge you to vote against this bill. This won't protect kids. Instead it will create incentives for one parent to do irreparable harm to their child. Additionally, it denies basic biology and truth. Government exists in service of truth and this bill would put the government at odds with the truth.
Karla Martinez Against themselves	.
Samuel Bentz Against themselves	I strongly urge the State Senators of Colorado to oppose HB25-1312. The reasons are as follows: 1. The extremely broad definition of coercive control includes a parent "regulating the individual's everyday behavior." Any reasonable parent regulates their child's behavior every single day by handing them a coat as they walk outside on a cold day or limits their screen time. Such a wide definition opens every sensible parent to lose custody of their children for performing basic parental responsibilities.

	2. The bill includes "misgendering" and "deadnaming" as forms of coercive control which compels speech and demands businesses, schools and parents to lie to children about their gender & sex. Colorado must not live by lies. 3. Lastly, and more fundamentally, this bill aims to desecrate and destroy any basic understanding of reality. By declaring that boys can be girls and girls can be boys, this bill will work to destroy all order in our state. Any objectivity to the world is tarnished if something so simple cannot be distinguished. God has created this world and made His truth plain and clear for all to see. If Colorado legislators continue to reject God and His ways, our state will further its decline and decay into chaos. Instead, honor God, serve the citizens of Colorado and protect the children of this state by opposing HB25-1312. Thank you.
Vanessa Ruggles Against themselves	Madam Chair and representative, I am a mother, grandmother, aunt and I oppose this bill as your saying children are mature enough to know they want to make permanent changes to their bodies. There are laws regulating the age in which they can buy guns, ammunitions, enter the armed forces, yet we are saying they know they are in the wrong body. The human body is an amazing thing and everyone has gone through puberty and for some it is easy and for others it is very difficult. My daughter had endometriosis at 16 and had laparoscopy the doctors recommend depo shot for her as she was told you will have to be on birth control for the rest of her life or would not be able to have children. We took the recommendation of the doctor and she had the shot, the first one was no problem, soon as she had the 2nd shot, she immediately told me her hands felt funny (tingly) then it started she cried every night for one year. They never mentioned for some it puts you into menopause from the shots. This was a horrible experience for her and I must say please vote no on HB25-1312. Medical recommendations to fix something that causes life changing events should be made when you are mature enough to know what your choice is going to do. I urge everyone to vote no on this bill. Thank you, Vanessa Ruggles
Lisa Cardiff Against themselves	Reasons I strongly oppose HB25-1312 Undermines parental rights and involves the government in all aspects of our lives. I want government out of my my bedroom; not in it.

	- Imposes gender ideology in schools: mandates gender-neutral dress codes and forces schools to affirm gender identity changes without parental consent. My kids attended religious school to escape the this nonsense and learn real skills rather than the whims of whatever lobby had politicians ears that year. - Attacks free speech & religious liberty. The most basic principle of are constitution is the first amendment. I strongly oppose the government mandating speech or intruding on my religious beliefs. - Public discourse will be chilled as individuals fear legal repercussions for expressing their beliefs about biology and gender."misgendering" as "Coercive control" in custody cases, risking parental custody for not affirming gender identity. Our resources are already strained. We. Don't need the government creating more regulations that require resources.
Yelena Crocker Against themselves	This goes against everything this world stands for.
Debra Roster Against themselves	The proposal of this bill is madness!! Are the thoughts and feelings of adolescent children always true? Our educators have educated our nation's population with a horrible lie! They taught our children that their individual perception of reality was true. That if you feel something is true then it is true. Nonsense!! Parents are responsible for protecting their children from the lies of the world. Parents will make errors because they are human, and they will believe lies themselves because they don't always know the truth. So too, the State government will make errors because they are human, and they will believe lies because they don't always know the truth.

	A parent is always responsible for their children, and they will be held accountable for the results of their parenting. A governing body will NEVER be held accountable for the lies they are planning to force parents to enforce.
Stacey Dell For themselves	Hello. My name is Stacey Dell, and I am speaking for myself and my daughters. My 19 year old daughter with autism encouraged me to speak up. I am a mother to two daughters who currently identify as a-romantic, but haven't settled on where they are. And that is OK with me. I let them know that whomever they choose to be, I love them, and they know that. They have numerous friends who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, and yes, transgender. I love how much their entire community supports each other. I love how much their teachers support each of them as well. They feel safe. They know they are loved and respected. Because of this, they thrive. And some of them float -they change their preferences, including their preferred names and genders. And still, they are supported. This bill is about respect. This bill is not about lies, or support of lies, as I keep hearing. This isn't about coercion of children. This bill is about respect. Respecting choices. There is nothing stating that a child cannot change their mind back at any point in time. This bill doesn't set direction for the rest of their life once they request to be called by a different name or a different gender. It gives them the opportunity to explore who they are in a safe space and figure out who they are. It simply demands respect and avoids harm and emotional abuse by not granting that space and right to be who they are.
Joyce Martin Against themselves	HB25-1312 is a horrible bill that strips rights from parents. It forces schools to hide information regarding gender identity changes from parents. It could force teachers and staff to comply with policies that violate their religious or personal convictions. It is a direct attack on free speech, religious liberty and parental rights and WE THE PEOPLE say NO!! We do not want this horrible bill in Colorado! Vote NO on HB25-1312!!
Paula Suhr Against themselves	Thank you for allowing me to testify. I am opposed to this bill because it does not protect young children and adolescents from pressure to identify as transgender from teachers and outside influences. This has resulted in parents being unjustly cut off from their young children. I am concerned because in many cases, gender dysphoria is a trauma response to abuse and deep wounds. Often these experiences are so painful that a child doesn't remember them or can't make sense of them. Gender reassignment surgery is devastating because it doesn't treat the real need of the child or adult, but it is permanent. The legislators who have brought this bill forward are ignoring experts and evidence from around the world that demonstrates the harm gender reassignment medications and surgeries cause, especially for young people. Please vote no on this bill.

Julia McConnaughey Against themselves	As a resident of Castle Rock and a parent deeply invested in the well-being of my family and community, I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Colorado House Bill 25-1312. This bill—under the guise of supporting gender identity and expression—seeks to override essential parental rights and erode the role of families in guiding and caring for their children. The idea that the state could make or affirm decisions about a minor’s gender identity without meaningful parental involvement is not only deeply concerning, it is wildly unacceptable. I believe that parents, not the government, are best equipped to make decisions that affect the physical, emotional, and psychological health of their children. HB 25-1312 threatens that foundational relationship by enabling policies that could lead to medical or social transitions without parental knowledge or consent. This is not about denying support or care to any child—it is about preserving the rights and responsibilities of parents to protect and guide their own children. It is about ensuring that sensitive, life-altering decisions are made with full family involvement, not through state intervention or ideological pressure. I urge you to stand with families and vote NO on HB 25-1312. Please defend parental rights and reject any legislation that weakens the sacred trust between parents and their children.
Kirsten Van Arsdale For themselves	Written Testimony in Support of H.B. 25-132: Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals Dr. Kirsten Van Arsdale 04/30/2025 To the Members of the Committee and Esteemed Legislators, I am writing today in strong support of H.B. 25-1312: Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals, legislation designed to safeguard the rights, dignity, and well-being of transgender individuals in our state. This bill represents a necessary and overdue step toward ensuring that all people — regardless of gender identity — can live free from discrimination, harassment, and systemic barriers. A particularly vital provision of this bill is the requirement that public forms include a designated space for individuals to provide their chosen name. For transgender and nonbinary people, as well as others who use a name different from their legal name, this simple change can have a profound impact. The ability to be recognized and addressed by one's chosen name is not only a matter of personal dignity but also a matter of safety, mental health, and full participation in civic life.

	Importantly, the bill also compels local education providers to be inclusive of all reasons a student might adopt a chosen name that differs from their legal name. Whether a student's chosen name reflects their gender identity, cultural heritage, family circumstances, or any other deeply personal reason, honoring that choice is a basic act of respect that supports a student's sense of belonging and self-worth. Schools should be places where all young people feel safe, affirmed, and valued for who they are. In addition, the bill wisely prohibits schools from adopting or enforcing dress codes based on gender. It ensures that all students are allowed to abide by any variation of an established dress code, free from outdated or exclusionary gender-based rules. This protects students' rights to express themselves authentically, comfortably, and confidently, while removing unnecessary barriers that disproportionately affect transgender, nonbinary, and gender-nonconforming students. As a proud public special education teacher, I know firsthand how vital it is for every student to feel seen, respected, and supported. Our classrooms are most successful when we create environments where diversity of identity and experience is honored. For students who already face complex challenges — whether related to disability, social stigma, or systemic inequities — the added burden of having their name, identity, or expression dismissed or invalidated can be deeply harmful. This bill takes meaningful steps to prevent that harm and promote inclusion for all students. Transgender people in our community, like all of us, deserve to feel safe and respected in their workplaces, schools, homes, and public spaces. Yet study after study, and countless personal stories, tell us that trans individuals face disproportionately high rates of violence, economic insecurity, and health disparities — all rooted in discrimination and marginalization. This is especially true for trans people of color, youth, and those living in poverty. H.B. 25-1312 would provide essential protections that affirm the humanity of transgender people and ensure they can access the same rights and opportunities as everyone else — whether it is in securing employment, obtaining healthcare, participating in education, renting housing, or simply existing in public spaces without fear of mistreatment. The inclusion of chosen names on public forms, support for students' chosen names in schools, and protection from gendered dress code enforcement are all clear, actionable ways to recognize the identities of transgender people and reduce harm caused by misnaming, misgendering, and exclusion. Beyond the legal protections, passing this bill sends a powerful message: that our state values fairness, dignity, and the inherent worth of every person. It tells transgender youth and adults alike that they are seen, respected, and deserving of a future where they can thrive. As a concerned public special educator and a committed advocate for all of my students, I urge you to vote in favor of H.B. 25-1312: Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals and stand on the side of justice, inclusion, and compassion. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Kirsten Van Arsdale, Ed.D., Leadership for Educational Equity

Alfonso Archuleta Against themselves	To whom it may concern, HB 25–1312, is a very destructive bill that will bring division and possibly strife and chaos in almost every household and many if not most schools in America. According to proven science and scientific studies there are only 2 genders, male and female and no court or child in the world should have the right to make it illegal to refer to a minor by pronouns corresponding to their biological sex at birth, or to use their name given at birth, if they have expressed an intention that they are transgender. Under this bill, parents can be stripped of their parental rights, and all businesses and places of public accommodation must comply with the trans, preferred pronoun and name. In addition, all schools must abide by the student's preferred name and pronouns. Therefore please vote against this destructive bill, thank you. Sincerely, Alfonso H. Archuleta
Sadie Turner Against themselves	No
Dennis Kudelin Against themselves	This bill undermines the very foundation of family integrity and parental rights. It proposes to sever the essential relationship between parent and child by granting minors, who are still developing cognitively, emotionally, and socially, the unilateral authority to make decisions with permanent consequences—without the counsel, guidance, or protection of their parents. Moreover, the threat of legal repercussions, including the removal of a child from their home, creates a chilling environment where parents are effectively silenced and stripped of their most basic responsibility: safeguarding the well-being of their children. Children, by their very nature, are still forming their identities and understanding of the world. Science and developmental psychology both affirm that the adolescent brain—especially in areas involving risk assessment, impulse control, and long-term planning—does not fully mature until well into a person's twenties. Granting minors the ability to make binding decisions regarding their sexual orientation or gender identity, without parental input, disregards this reality and exposes them to risks of regret, emotional turmoil, and irreversible medical or psychological consequences. Beyond the immediate dangers to individual children, this bill sets a troubling precedent for our society as a whole. It erodes the role of the family as the primary unit of nurturing and moral formation. It diminishes the trust between parents and children by inserting the state into private family matters in an unprecedented and authoritarian manner. A society that

	weakens parental authority and sidelines families is a society that weakens its own future. It is not compassion to isolate children from their families; it is not justice to punish loving parents who only wish to ensure their child's long-term welfare. True care for minors involves supporting both the child and their family, not driving a wedge between them.
Svetlana Hooper Against themselves	Dear Senator Gonzales, HB25-1312 is a big violation of parental rights and aims to prey on innocent children that do NOT belong to the school or the state or to you. They are not yours at all. You may not tell the parents how they are going to raise their own children and then abuse your power in government to say it is coercive control and abuse by twisting around language and definitions. Each parent has every right to know what is happening with their child and to take the action they see as necessary, and you may not threaten them with state power to take away their own children. That is malevolent and evil. Do NOT let bill HB25-1312 pass Thank you! Sincerely, Svetlana Hooper
Emily Henrie Against themselves	Testimony Against Colorado House Bill 25-1312 Honorable Committee Members, Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. As a mother of three boys, I stand before you deeply concerned about House Bill 25-1312. Over the years, I've witnessed an erosion of meaning and values in our society. This bill represents a troubling transfer of power from parents to the state—reminiscent of how freedoms can gradually disappear when government authority expands unchecked. Parents have both the right and responsibility to raise their children according to their values. This includes addressing them by their given names and affirming the identities they were born with. Children are developmentally unprepared to make life-altering decisions about gender identity. Schools and other institutions should not be positioned to suggest or affirm identities that contradict a child's biological reality without parental involvement.

	This legislation appears designed to wedge itself between parents and children under the guise of protection. However, our existing laws already safeguard children from genuine abuse. By expanding definitions to potentially criminalize parents for simply affirming their child's biological reality or using their birth name, we create a dangerous precedent that undermines the family unit. I firmly believe this bill targets the most vulnerable in our society—our children—while stripping parents of their fundamental rights. It is our collective duty to protect those without a voice from government overreach, not to facilitate it. The parent-child relationship is sacred and protected by natural law. The state should support families, not seek ways to divide them. I urge you to oppose House Bill 25-1312 and any legislation that would infringe upon a parent's right to guide their children through the challenges of growing up. Thank you for your consideration.
Brittany Perrotto Against themselves	I urge you to please listen to the 80% of people who oppose this bill! Vote no or at the very least make this apply to adults only.
adam l For themselves	Hi, my name is Adam, I'm proud to speak in support of the Kelly loving act. The simple act of acknowledging someone's identity saves lives, this fact should be non-contentious. This bill says that your identity will be respected and I believe that's what the opposition fears. That people will know they have a choice to be themselves and be proud. This bill isn't radical. It's hardly enough but it's something - and it's important. It is saying that one should be respected, that one's name should be respected. It's saying that it's not okay for those that have power over you to force an identity upon you. It's saying that an institution can't force you to wear an outfit which doesn't represent you. It's saying that here in this state you will be protected, and cared for even if your home state isn't a safe place for you. Many of my loved ones are trans. I've seen the scars they carry both physically and emotionally. I've seen the toll deadnaming takes upon them on a daily basis. Deadnaming is more than disrespectful, it can be a legitimate threat it's proof that someone has researched your background that they have cyber stalked you, or worse.

	I'm sick of the bigotry trans folks experience everyday including in the this building. It's time to stand up for them. Please do what's right and vote for this simple bill. My loved ones story's are unique not because they are trans but because they survived.
Robert Wagner Against himself	Honorable Senators, As a CO native and longtime resident of the state, I am asking you to oppose this bill and prevent its movement through the senate. This bill is crafted under the label of "protection", but its true purpose is to silence those opposed to gender transition ideology and remove the rights of those who do. This bill takes away freedoms instead of protecting them. In a time where we hear much about "gender affirming care", why is it that the "affirming care" only focuses on affirming the gender transition of a person and not on affirming the original birth gender of that person? Isn't it less complicated and healthier for a person to learn to love their natural gender versus going through the mentally and physically abusive process of transitioning their body to the opposite gender? We should be promoting the love and acceptance of everyone's naturally born self instead of pushing an ideology that focuses on altering our bodies in irreversible ways to fix a supposed "mistake" that was made when we were initially created. This bill would silence and punish the people who are most likely to notice when someone is having questions about gender? The parents, teachers, religious leaders, and others in positions of guidance around those people, especially kids, would be forced to go along with the supposed truth of gender transition instead of rightfully questioning those thoughts and helping to seek clarity. As a committed father, I firmly believe parents are the most supremely qualified authorities, when it comes to their children. The state is not qualified to raise children, nor does it have the ability to truly care about them or for them. Again, I ask you to oppose this bill and the ideology behind it, because I can assure you that I, and other God-fearing people like me, will never stop opposing it and will continue standing for truth. Robert Wagner
Lauren Kirby Against	The child's parent is their biggest advocate and should by no means be criminalized or punished for calling the child by their name or pronouns given at the time of birth. Any legal dispute among parents is separate from the child's identity and a child's access to their parents will always be in their best interest. Studies have shown the

themselves	affects on children when there are absent parents and the state should not remove a parent's right to custody on the matter of "misgendering." I am sick to my stomach that this is even up for debate.
Cassandra Patton Against themselves	I am your constituent and writing you to ask that you oppose HB1312. This bill represents an overreach by the state into matters that belong to parents and families. By introducing government-mandated ideology into school policy, and limiting the ability of parents to be informed and involved, these bills do more harm than good. Families deserve the right to raise their children according to their values and faith. I urge you to stand up for parental rights and vote NO on this bill! With concern, Cassandra Patton Arvada, Colorado
Jill Felix Against themselves	Today I am writing to ask you to vote NO on HB1312. This bill undermines parental rights, compels speech in a way that violates the First Amendment, and pushes sensitive conversations away from families and into the hands of the state. I believe parents—not the government—are best equipped to guide their children through important issues. This bill ignores that truth. I respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB1312 and protect both families and freedoms in Colorado. Thank you, Jill Felix
Jonathan Kirkland Against themselves	Gender dysphoria is a recognized medical condition, not a lifestyle choice. Children often engage in imaginative play, envisioning themselves as superheroes, vehicles, or animals. While fantasy is an essential and enjoyable part of childhood, attempting to make these identities a reality can have unintended consequences. Young children do not seek adult intervention in these imaginative experiences; rather, they naturally explore and dream through play. Even at the age of 25, many individuals are still undergoing cognitive development and may not be prepared to make life-altering decisions. This matter does not fall within the scope of government intervention. The role of government should be limited in such cases, except in instances where it is necessary

	to prevent medical professionals from making irreversible changes to a child's development and ruining the child.
Jacob Siegrist Against himself	My Dear Colorado Legislators and Citizens, This is a polarizing topic, and both sides are adamant they are in the right on whether they support or not the passing of HB25-1312. The attitude I have seen from both perspectives is one of absolute certainty, they are certain they know the best for these children, their education atmospheres, social circles, and home life with their parents. I have never written into a senate judiciary for a proposed law in my life, so when I say this caught my attention, know I mean that as I have never done this before. Specifically what had me take note of this bill was the press releases, quotes, and words said by associations and the bill sponsors in support of it. Terms such as deadnaming are an interesting and morbid choice of words, to begin with, but then statements from the bill proponents such as "There is a real possibility that gender-affirming care could be at risk... this is about taking control of what we can do to ensure that our friends and neighbors and family members continue to get the care they need regardless of what might happen in the future." I think the key parts there are what may happen in the future, taking control, and what is currently happening outside of Colorado. The bill proponents are certain this bill will enforce trust, rights, and access to services for the LGBTQ community. Because of this absolute certainty, what I found they are not accounting for when speaking to other Colorado citizens is the erosion of trust, how rights can be put under a microscope even further, and how services are available for the community. Erosion of trust with schools, businesses, and most importantly parents with their children and the state is something I don't hear the bill sponsors speak of. Neither is the erosion of trust when it comes to the Colorado legislative branch. Or how regardless of what is happening in other states or at a federal level, no LGBTQ citizens in Colorado have had their rights stripped from them in terms of care, have they? So the response to this bill instead is we will proactively make sure every Colorado citizen abides by this new bill regardless of what is going on in their lives and their beliefs. Again a key theme in this bill for me is certainty, the bill sponsors are certain they are in the right, certain of their tolerance, certain this is best for the entire state. In my experience bills should be passed that are right and justified, but they should also unify the citizens it represents, and the tone the bill sponsors have is not one of unity because of this certainty. Certainty is the enemy of unity. When you are absolutely certain you are justified, you block out diverse or dissenting viewpoints. While the state telling businesses and schools what is legal is not completely uncommon, what is uncommon about this bill is the impact on families and parents of children. In this country, you have to be 21 to smoke or drink. 18 years old to vote, get a tattoo, to receive most medical procedures. 17 years old to join the military, and 16 to drive. The reason I bring these ages up is it is universally known that wisdom comes with age. I made idiotic decisions when I was 5, 10, 15, 20... even in my 30s when you take a moment after the fact to reflect on things you could or should have done differently. I think we can all think of times in our lives where we experience regret, and through time and experience, we become

	more knowledgeable as we grow older. That is a basic foundation for laws with age limits. Why this specific topic stands out to me is you can receive puberty blockers in Colorado at the age of 12, hormone therapy at the age of 16, and in many cases under the age of 18 for physical surgeries that are permanent such as a Hysterectomy, Mastectomy, and Vaginectomy. Enforcing major life decisions at such a young age is something our government should be careful of and the impacts it can have on future generations, and those generations will remember who pushed that forward. When we are 12 years old, most children are certain of nothing in terms of how the world is and what will happen later in their lives. I bring these points up as I'd like our legislators to consider if their children, or if they had children, would in good judgment for the longevity of their children's life, allow their young boy or girl to take puberty blockers at 12, hormone therapy at 16, or potential a physical surgery to their genitals at the age of 15, 16, or 17. Our legislators seem certain that his bill is the best for our youth, parents, and family dynamics... yet when I speak to everyday Colorado citizens, what I hear is fear of the state telling families what to do, supporting medical institutions' best interests over a child's, and give credence to curious thoughts we all had when we were 12 or 13, and then taking that and make a life-altering decision based on that curiosity. Before some proponents of this bill dismiss my message, I'd like them to know I have immediate family in the LGBTQ community, I also have family that have gone through all the medical surgeries listed above. I can tell you confidently coming from a family event with diverse views, thoughts, lifestyles, and experiences... nothing will tear apart a family, erode trust, make people walk on eggshells, and diminish freedom of speech in a community more than forcing families to follow guidelines around our speech from the LGBTQ community. And that isn't to say I dislike, hate, or don't love people in that community. I in fact do love them, a lot... even if I don't agree with them on every point. But not only is there an absolute certainty that this is the right move a problem for Colorado for trans rights, things that have stood the test of time for hundreds of years in the case of our 1st amendment in freedom of speech, but thousands of years in the case of family dynamics and a healthy household are being torn down with this bill. If a parent misnames, or misgenders a child once, that will in some cases be documented and used against parents. If a parent ever talks about a child's life with them in terms of their sexual journey, that can be used against them. Merely having a conversation with a child, their child can be used against them, whether they meant ill intent or none at all, and were trying to help the child. What instead the state is saying is, that medical professionals, educators, and legislators have more of a say in your life and more importantly your child's life, the child the parents raised not the state, when it comes to their medical journey and sexual journey. If this materializes it will diminish our First Amendment rights, it will tear more families apart, it will make education more difficult on multiple levels, and it will inadvertently cause more division and death than what would otherwise happen if it didn't pass.

	For historical context, John Hopkins University was the first to mainstream trans surgeries in the 60s and 70s before halting them in 1979. Mainstream acceptance started in the early 2000s and trending speech on the topic in the 2010s. Our legislators are telling us to trust them, we are certain that based on the last 10-50 years of trans statistics we have seen this is in the best interest of everyone versus the hundreds of years of rights, or thousands of years before that the population followed on free speech, parental rights, family dynamics, government and medical say on families. What they fail to mention is most of this push is from medical organizations that benefit financially from trans children and if 60% of the population in the US was transgender vs. 0.06%, every medical firm would be happy to make that happen without regard for what is truly best for the patient's health and mental well being. Multiple medical studies have proven trans youth to have a higher risk of suicide. The bill sponsors claim this is saving lives but according to studies 82% of transgender individuals have considered suicide, and 40% have attempted it vs. non trans youth stats to be at 21% and 8% in the same areas according to the CDC. The Colorado population currently has youth under 18 at approximately 1.2 million people. Let's say this bill passes, trans rights expand, accept increases, and the trans population goes from 0.6% to 1% in coming years. When you factor in a 5x high likelihood of the youth attempting suicide versus not, you are putting roughly 5,000 kids at risk of attempted suicide and this bill will directly impact that outcome and make it more likely. I would say the bill sponsors not only erode the trust of families and communities with this bill, tear apart families more so, but also put thousands of more children harming themselves and that will not be in the hands of those that have differing viewpoints, it will be of those that make this a reality, i.e. those voting. Consider that carefully. So I ask our legislators voting on HB25-1312, are you certain this is the best bill based on the past few decades of research and cultural trends, but is it truly the best for the state, for families, for schools, for communities, and most importantly for all children? I believe in research and known facts to us for hundreds or thousands of years versus a few decades, and I hope those voting consider the negative ramifications of this bill passing if it does as it will have immediate impacts in the state, and for generations to come.
Stephanie Kadtke Against herself	This bill threatens free speech and forces people to say things they don't believe in. Adults whom kids look up to need to be able to express their beliefs in public. Loving parents are best equipped to guide their kids psychological and medical issues. Stating the biological truth is not coercive control. What are you doing about the fathers of a certain faith in this state who beat their female children to almost dead and chain them to their bed frames for talking to a boy? This has happened recently in CO. That is what I would call coercive control. One can't reverse gender transitioning and so it is a delicate matter that should be guided by the parents that know them best. Allowing a person whose hormones are

	changing, who has not fully developed, mutilate their body parts is not loving. What if they change their mind later in life when they're hormones calm down? They can't get back their original functioning body parts they had before. Once a kid is 18 we allow them to make their own decisions, smoke cigarettes, gamble, when they are 21 they can drink. Why are these things restricted in the first place? Because bad life threatening decisions have been known to be made by this young age group. Why would you allow them to cut off body parts at this bad decision-making time of life? Parents need to be able to give their kids wisdom, insight and instruction because they have been there before. Parents need to know certain things about their kids so they can step in and help guide. I respectfully urge you to not pass this measure and protect families and freedoms in Colorado
Cate Terwilliger Against themselves	I am a lifelong Democrat, lesbian, founder of Gay Pride in Colorado Springs, and retired staff writer for The Denver Post, The Colorado Springs Gazette, The Colorado Springs Independent and the Associated Press. I am writing to ask state senators, particularly Democrats who have fallen sway to the quasi religion of gender ideology, to again exert intelligence and courage, and protect the truly vulnerable here. Since that appears to need definition, the truly vulnerable are confused children who may not fit regressive gender stereotypes -- many are incipient gay kids, and most have comorbidities such as ADHD, autism, depression and eating disorders -- captured by a baseless ideology that tells them they are actually the opposite sex (or no sex at all). This is back-door homophobia, transing away the gay. To penalize parents who don't validate this mental health disorder (per the DSM), who instead wish to support their children from through therapy and other appropriate supports -- which the UK and other better-informed countries now prioritize -- is outrageous. You might as well penalize parents who don't validate an anorexic daughter's belief that her body weight is healthy. These children need parents and other adults to have better sense, to do the difficult work of protecting and guiding them through puberty, rather than endorsing a world view that begins with validation of delusion over reality and thereafter can lead to puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and in some cases mutilating surgery. Irreversible, lifelong, needless harm to formerly healthy young bodies. Further, the idea that "deadnaming" and "misgendering" -- terms that implicitly accept that one's birth name is an unbearable affront, and one can have a "gender" (inner, subjective) that must be recognized even if it contradicts one's objective sex -- are impermissible speech is an affront to the First Amendment. That the press -- which in a functioning democracy holds accuracy and truth-telling paramount -- would also be forbidden to use an individual's legal name and accurate pronouns, beggars belief. That state legislators would penalize a free people and a free press for telling the truth is truly appalling.

	I fought for gay rights in the '80s, '90s and aughts, when Colorado was much more conservative. But I was never as ashamed of my state then as I am now, when former allies -- people I once thought brave, principled, intelligent -- have embraced an ideology that harms children (many gay), trespasses female sports and spaces and penalizes anyone -- whether within the sanctity of the home, or in public places intended to be bastions of free speech -- who disagrees. Please: Stand for intelligence, for courage, for a return to sanity. Oppose this bill. Thank you, Cate Terwilliger
Julie Powell For themselves	My name is Julie Powell and am a strong advocate for the LGBTQ community. Not having been familiar with the issues confronting the trans community until it became part of my family, I understand the need to educate yourself and be open to learning about experiences outside of our own. While I am sure many of you here today are not intimately familiar with the struggle and lives of the trans community, I know that like me, you can open your hearts and your minds to what really is and should be, a community fight. I am also a nurse, and learned through that practice that compassion and caring is the key to truly helping those in need, be it physical or mental struggles that they are facing. While I wasn't familiar with all that goes into being a trans person in this world, I feel strongly that we need to continue support the care treatment of these important members of our society. If we continue to neglect these people, we rob ourselves of the incredible friends, coworkers, and family that they can be, as well as all that they bring to the community at large.
Lyubov Kudelin Against themselves	Genesis chapter one verse 27 and God created man in his own image in his own image God created male and female, created them and blessed them and God said to them be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and in another place in the new testament and Ephesians 6th chapter it is written, children obey your parents and the Lord, for they demand justice honor your father and mother this is the first commandment promise and any violation of non-fulfillment of God's purpose

	assignments heads of countries states cities families will suffer great punishment for this.
Sam Altschuler For themselves	As someone who has lived for over a decade with mental health issues and suicidality relating to identity, my relationship with my peers and parents, etc. I strongly believe in the importance of respecting others identities and preferences relating to names/pronouns and protecting youth from any and all forms of repeated verbal abuse. Especially in a world where "Data indicate[s] that 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth" (See reference below). Having been suicidal myself as well as having peers who have experience the same and some who have died by suicide in my high school, I take anything that has even the possibility of relieving suicidal thoughts or mental health issues incredibly seriously. Through my own self acceptance and acceptance from my parents and friends that I have made in adulthood I have finally been able to ease some of the barriers to joy that were present in my youth. I strongly believe that having more of a support system as a child would have allowed me to feel safer and more able to get through the difficult feelings I experience in childhood. I urge you all to consider the possible consequences of each decision. With protecting youth as the common goal, I do not believe that using preferred names or pronouns could have the potential for a devastating or harmful affect on parents or children. At the absolute worst it may be an annoyance or a learning experience or something a child could possibly decide to change in adulthood. However, the opposite, the suppression if trans expression and joy, will incredibly likely promote increased incidence of mental illness and death by suicide. Austin, A., Craig, S. L., D'Souza, S., & McInroy, L. B. (2020). Suicidality among Transgender Youth: Elucidating the role of interpersonal risk factors. Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 37(5–6), NP2696–NP2718. https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260520915554
Stacy Adler For themselves	As a mother of a trans teen and a bonus child that was kicked out of their house for being trans. I want to know that as a caring and loving parent I won't be discriminated against for taking care of my children and that my children who already face a ton of discrimination are protected by the law of our state. The ignorance of the majority of the witnesses that oppose the Kelly Love Act are acting from a place of misplaced victim hood and are making up far-fetched unfounded stories to support a bigoted way of thinking. It's sad that they can fight so hard for their religious and moral beliefs to be pushed on others but when people that think and look different than them want the very basic right of living their authentic lives, suddenly those same people have the right to impose their beliefs on us and the trans community. Protection for the right to liberty and the pursuit of happiness is why I support this bill. Thank you.
Beau Werley Against themselves	Dearest State and House Representatives, Thank you for your diligence in seeking the goodwill of the residents of Colorado. Your decisions directly impact the lives of residents, families, and even yourselves.

	Your obligation to do the most good for people of Colorado is a burden of immeasurable weight which I know not. For this, I thank you. And for this, I must oppose HB25-1312. As I'm sure many of you delight in the company and presence of family, often that comes with challenges and sorrow. In moments of difficulty "tough love" doesn't feel loving in the slightest. But dear representatives of our great state, love need not always be affirming, it too must be correcting. In the family, this is the bitterly sweet role adopted by parents. Fathers and mothers who love their children must often correct, even at the risk of those being corrected not "feeling loved." While there are dearly beloved members in the transgender community, to love them does not necessitate affirming them. Love has far deeper roots than agreeing with someone on the surface. It is my stance that while HB25-1312 seals the "protection" of some, it comes at the great cost of tearing such protections from loving fathers and mothers, tearing from them the opportunity to instruct their children in the ways of this world in the proper time. Beloved representatives, I implore you to plumb the depths of your love for the people of this great state and to consider this bill with caution. Evaluating it on the premise of Biblical truth and deep, parental love and correction. With love for you and this beloved state, Beau Werley
Kimberly Daniel Against themselves	I move to reject the HB 25-1312 bill. Children should not be given the power to choose for themselves their identities. They are easily swayed by peers, social media, and such. They don't understand what they are choosing or how it will affect their psyche. They are not in a place to choose something so final at such a young age. God intentionally designed each person as they are (being born a male or a female). He does not make mistakes. It says in Psalm 139: 13-14 "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." God's design in placing parents in authority is for a good reason: They help guide their children in truth, to train them up, to protect, to care for, comfort, and teach them right from wrong. They have in mind to do what's best for their children. Proverbs 22:6 "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." This bill is teaching children to dishonor their parents which could translate to others in authority down the road.
Kevin McPeck Against	Dear Senators,

themselves	This is a attack on Parental Rights and Free Speech. The nation and all of Colorado parents are watching how you vote on this. By passing this, you put Colorado on the roadmap for losing federal funding. If your goal is to destroy parental rights and send Colorado down a further decline, we will know by how you vote on 1312. Please vote No. Kevin McPeck
Erin Barnes Against themselves	I am extremely concerned about the parental rights infringements that this bill would violate, so I ask you to vote NO on SB HB25-1312. As a parent, I know how important it is that I am allowed to raise my own children in the way that I believe is right. The U.S. Constitution gives us rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness which I believe include the way I raise my children. This bill would mandate that I subscribe to a certain ideology and would criminalize what I teach my children if I don't agree. That is absolutely un-American and wrong. There are many things wrong with this bill, including: - The State can use a parent's personal religious beliefs against them in investigations and custody decisions. - The bill violates our First Amendment rights of free speech by compelling us to say things that we disagree with. - The bill violates our religious liberty to train our children in the way we believe is right. - The bill forces schools to enforce non-gendered clothing, which violates a personal right to expression. - The bill forces schools to advocate for more than two genders, which is an ideology that violates the free speech of those who don't agree. Please Vote NO on SB HB25-1312! Thank you for your time.

Alina Najar Against themselves	I oppose this bill. To undermine and criminalize parents will lead to a slippery slope. Family is the foundation to society. Years ago my child was exposed to material at school he did not understand. He was only in kindergarten and the topics being taught were so unfamiliar to him. In an effort to make sense he internalized material that was shown. Later when questions were asked, with a sense he should respond he repeated the story that had been shared as his own. This innocent comment led CPS to open an investigation, remove him from school and then ask questions. It took no more than 5 to 10 minutes of questions for them realize the mistake that had been made. Unfortunately the amount of harm, trauma, fear and lack of trust that ensued from this event was not taken into account. He was taken without his life saving medication. He was transported with out permission and proper car seat. He was put in more harm because of the negligence and lack of due diligence of a few individuals. No organization should have this much unchecked power and authority. Apologies did not bring back the sense of security and safety that was swept away from our family. This event left me, his mother with PTSD and I had to seek therapy. The assumption that there could be a parent that does not have the best interest at heart of their child can not come at the price of taking away the security, rights, and family safety of all. Criminalizing parents, threatening parents with this bill will cause more harm. The sanctity of the bond between parents and their children must be respected and protected.
K Kantor For themselves	I've had to take over "mom" duties for multiple trans friends after their parents refused to acknowledge them as humans. I've been at hospitals with friends receiving gender-affirming care and witnessed staff misgendering and deadnaming their patients immediately following their care. I've housed trans friends after they came out and were sent packing because the people they'd lived with for half their lives were disgusted by them. During a ten-year stint in the funeral industry I've buried trans people who chose to leave this world because they weren't accepted, and I've felt the disappointment on behalf of myself and the people who loved them when their next of kin chose to "celebrate" them with their deadname and the incorrect gender. I've cried with parents who are afraid of what the world will be like for their trans children. I've cried with trans people who are afraid to simply exist in this world. When I was 8 years old I switched my name from Kathleen to Katie and no one batted an eye. When my cousin was 13 she switched her name from Sarah to Helene and no one batted an eye. Children figured it out and obliged immediately. We were supported by our teachers, families, and strangers when we decided to assume a different identity. Even as an adult, when people see my real name they ask if I go by something else and then call me by the name I provide. Why is it so much harder to get on board when a trans person changes their name to fit their identity? I don't know what I could possibly say that others haven't said already to change the minds of hateful people, but I hope that my voice and others will collectively become loud enough to resonate and convince humans to be kind to each other. Trans rights are human rights because trans people are humans. Please don't let the hate win.

Rowan Taylor For themselves	My life is at risk in the United States. I don't feel safe in public because I have been yelled at, because at job interviews I was told I wouldn't fit in, and driving Uber I had men calling me slurs and asking questions about if I had been sexually abused by family and other questions. I can't use a all gender bathroom at work, such as a family bathroom or a disability accomodating bathroom because my workplace has none. I am not safe and those who provide care for me including my doctor, her nurse, the hospital security, the pharmacy, the pharmacist, the pharmacy assistant, and everyone else is potentially at risk from the executive orders to, stamp out, kill, eliminate, end or otherwise eliminate transgenderism. Transgender, nonbinary and intersex people isn't a school concept that will go away if you don't teach it. We have been here since before the first words of Bible were first written. We have had laws through the middle ages regulating what man and women could wear because people didn't like women changing their gender. Laws were put on the courtesans in English history to stop women from cutting their hair short for the purpose of confusing their gender. All of human history shows trans people and now some say all trans people look at white women and think about assaulting them. And I said white women because this law is no different than the segregation laws saying white people were safer because someone else was being segregated. I appreciate this bill addressing harms that all people experience and offering a punishment for those who do wilfully harm another.
viktoriya Goncharov Against themselves	I am very much against this bill that takes away parents right to educate our children on their gender identity. Please, please vote NO on HB25-1312
Zachariah Robinson Against themselves	Dear Honorable Members of the Colorado Legislature, My name is Zachariah Robinson, and I am writing to you not only as a concerned citizen, but more importantly, as a father and a community leader who is trying to raise his children with integrity, love, and truth in today's world. HB25-1312 deeply concerns me because it reaches into the heart of my home and redefines how I am allowed to love and lead my own children. Under this bill, if one of my children becomes confused about their identity and I continue to speak to them with the name I gave them or affirm the biological reality of their sex, I could be accused of abuse, coercive control, or discrimination. This is not protection—this is government overreach. As a father, I believe my role is to guide, protect, and speak truth to my children—even when it's hard. I do that out of love, not control. My Christian faith teaches me

	that God created each of us male or female (Genesis 1:27), and raising my children according to that truth is not an act of harm—it's an act of faith and fidelity. This bill, however, would allow the state to use that very belief against me in legal proceedings like custody cases or investigations. HB25-1312 also infringes upon my First Amendment rights. It compels me to say things I do not believe and punishes me for using language consistent with my faith. It turns personal convictions into public offenses. I ask you, respectfully, to consider the precedent this bill sets—not just for parents of faith, but for any parent who dares to question cultural trends or offer guidance that doesn't conform to a shifting ideological standard. Please protect the rights of Colorado families to raise their children according to their conscience. I urge you to vote no on HB25-1312. Let's uphold both parental rights and the freedoms our Constitution guarantees. With sincerity and concern, Zachariah Robinson Rifle, Colorado Father Community Leader Concerned Parent
Adriana Morandini Against themselves	This bill wouldn't have drawn so much attention had it not been for the absurdity to get our children mixed in to the agenda. It's not child abuse to disagree with your child. Who will be there to care for them when later in life the repercussions of changing their God given identity is realized and they want to have children of their own. The perfect plan of the devil himself, attack the family. God have mercy on you for what you choose to do as an adult but don't dare go after our children. That being said, I will never support unkindness but do we honestly think that passing this bill will change that. Unfortunately, the answer is no. That is a separate battle. Please I urge you say NO to this bill and let families prevail. Thank you and God bless you all.
Jennifer McClain For themselves	I am writing in favor of the Kelly Loving Act. Colorado must remain a safe place for transgender youth and adults. In this day and age that requires legislation. Please act with decency and humanity.
Kat Dicken For themselves	My name is Kat Dicken and I'm a Licensed Social Worker and Queer person out of La Plata County in South West Colorado. I primarily work with Queer youth, a lot of whom are transgender or gender non-conforming. I am writing in support of the Kelly Loving Act, HB25-1312, also known as the Transgender Bill of Rights.

	As you know, transgender rights are being infringed all across the country, despite being estimated 1% or less of the population. The Trans Legislation Tracker is tracking 859 anti-transgender bills across the country. Colorado has been a safe haven for women's rights, gay rights, and now needs to step up to bolster protections for trans rights. I won't continue to stress a lot of, what I'm sure, has already come up today like the fact that trans folks die by suicide and are murder at disparate rates compared to other communities, or that trans children die from anti-trans legislation. What I will do is tell you that, as a Social Worker, legislation like this is important to protect marginalized folks, like our trans siblings. Civil rights legislation has always faced opposition from people who are on the wrong side of history. Today, you get to decide whether or not you land on the wrong side of history by continuing to dehumanize and disenfranchise transgender folks, or on the correct, humane, and ethical side of history by protecting some of the most targeted folks in country. Today, you can to decide to send this vote to the senate floor and fight for an individual's right to the pursuit of happiness, or you can try to kill this bill and have the blood of democracy and trans folks on your hands. I urge you to pass this bill to the Senate. Thank you.
Rhys Cadwallader For themselves	On custody determinations, the health and safety of a child is heavily dependent on their treatment by their parents, and to ignore or allow misgendering and deadnaming is to allow further mistreatment, putting the child at risk of harm and death.
Dakota Tucker Against themselves	Dear Committee, I am Against Bill HB25-1312. On behalf of my family, My parental rights as a parent, and my Constitutional rights as an American, This bill makes it to where I as a mother either have to conform to the lie of transgenderism saying my child's gender was wrong that he or she was born as and therefore has to be mutilated in order to become the right gender. Or the state will remove my child from my protection, and care. This is WRONG, AND EVIL As Fathers and Mother's we have the right to protect our children above all else we are the ones who have raised our children up from when they were born, we know what gender they were born as and watch them become the young men and women for the next generations... These Policies and Bills removing our rights as a mother and father to speak up and to protect our children from the lies that is being spread by social media or Social entities are wrong and go against our Parental rights. Do the right thing and stand up for what is right not the lie That is being pushed down everyone's throat. Do the right thing for the next generations to come... they are going to pay the consequences of Mother's and fathers and adults not standing up for them, They will be the ones that will pay the consequences of mutilation not being able to have children in their future, Having tons of health issues because they have been

	mutilated by pills and Gender transforming surgeries. This is not protecting any child this is mutilating them and destroying their biological body, for Social gain. I, Dakota Tucker am Against HB25-1312
Marilyn Macadam Against themselves	I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 25-1312, the so-called "Kelly Loving Act." While I respect the intent to protect individuals from discrimination, this bill goes too far by undermining parental rights, free speech, and common-sense policies in schools and family courts. Below are my primary concerns: 1. Violates Parental Rights in Custody Disputes** - The bill weaponizes "misgendering" and "deadnaming" as forms of "coercive control," which could be used to punish parents who disagree with a child's gender transition. - This sets a dangerous precedent where a parent's sincere concerns about medical interventions (such as puberty blockers or surgery) could be twisted into evidence of abuse, justifying custody restrictions. - Family courts should prioritize the child's long-term well-being, not impose ideological conformity on parents. 2. Forces Schools to Adopt Radical Gender Policies - The bill mandates that schools allow students to use any name or dress code option regardless of biological sex, effectively erasing sex-based distinctions. - This could create chaos in classrooms, undermine dress codes meant to maintain decorum, and infringe on girls' privacy and safety in locker rooms or sports. - Teachers and administrators who respect biological reality could face discrimination claims for simply enforcing traditional policies. 3. Bans Free Speech Under "Anti-Discrimination" Law - By classifying "misgendering" and "deadnaming" as illegal discrimination in public accommodations, the bill criminalizes speech—even accidental slips of the tongue. - This could lead to frivolous lawsuits against businesses, healthcare providers, or even religious organizations that hold traditional views on gender. - The First Amendment protects unpopular speech, including the belief that sex is biological and immutable. - The bill prohibits Colorado courts from recognizing other states' laws that protect children from experimental gender treatments. - This is a direct attack on state sovereignty and could encourage parental kidnapping cases where one parent flees to Colorado to access irreversible medical procedures for a child.

	- Requiring all government forms to default to "chosen names" (except where legally necessary) creates confusion in legal, medical, and law enforcement contexts. - This could lead to fraud, misidentification, and bureaucratic inefficiencies when accurate records are essential. Conclusion HB 25-1312 is a dangerous overreach that prioritizes gender ideology over parental rights, free speech, and child welfare. Instead of pushing extreme policies, Colorado should protect families, uphold free expression, and respect biological reality. I urge you to OPPOSE this bill and focus on legislation that unites, rather than divides, our communities.
Stacey Stillwell Against themselves	1. Throughout all of human history, stable and prosperous societies have thrived on the strong foundation of the family, but when government intervenes to undermine parents, society declines. 2. Religious freedom is at the very foundation of the United States. This bill would force parents and educators to violate our religious beliefs. 2. There are logical reasons why we do not permit children to sign contracts, own guns, drink alcohol, or get tattoos, yet this bill says that the default approach is to allow children to choose amputation of healthy body parts and permanent sterilization. It ignores the very real risk of regret and the future emotional and physical pain of de-transitioning, as has been the case with so many who have transitioned. It is egregious and wrong to criminalize loving parents who would want their children to avoid this potential permanent harm by giving them the opportunity for counseling and for maturity that can only come with time.
Steven Markel Questions Only themselves	It should not be the position of any government to impose, or propose how parents choose to raise their children in faith and morals. That is up to the parents. The parents know what is best for a child's emotional, psychological, physical and spiritual development. To have a successful Democratic republic parents must provide for their own children's faith and moral development
Maria Bergman Against themselves	There have been countless of testimonies opposed, with medical professionals, psychologists, who have given facts about why this is a horrendous bill that goes against science and logic, goes against religious freedom, and takes away parental rights using state power and fear. The state does not have authority over a parents

	child, and creating laws that twist language to label it abuse to gain control of a child is wrong and abuse of your position in power. This is wrong and you need to make sure this is not passed. Children belong to parents not to you. If a parent does not want their child groomed they have the right and it is NOT coercive control. Vote NO!
Cecilia Foster For themselves	Good afternoon, My name is Cecilia and I am fully in support of bill # HB25-1312. We as Coloradans need to take responsibility for our citizens and their safety, and that includes to every member of the LGBT+ community. The queer community has long since looked to Colorado as a place of safety and refuge, where we can be protected and a part of a thriving community. As the political climate continues to threaten these vital members of our community, it is our job to make it clear and in no uncertain terms that we will protect and stand for the rights of our people, all our people.
Kevin Thompson Against themselves	I write to oppose HB1312 as an inappropriate overreach on the part of the State. Families who are going through the throes of a child with gender dysphoria don't need the State to compel speech or behavior as they look for a path forward. As I am sure you all have heard, the majority of children who experience gender dysphoria grow out of this phase if they are not pushed and cajoled into pursuing it. You are also no doubt aware of certain individuals who have de-transitioned after doing irreparable harm to their own bodies. Parents should not be forced to acquiesce to behaviors or actions they see as harmful - they know their children better than legislators - and "gender-affirming care" involves drugs that harm their natural bodies and potentially surgeries that are even more harmful and irreversible. "Gender-affirming care" is actually an experimental treatment field that can sterilize children and alter their bodies forever. That sounds more like abuse to me, not care. Parents should not risk punishment by the State or potential removal of their child for saying "wait" to their child or exercising a caution that most would find reasonable. Scripture affirms that God created humans as "male and female". A good definition of the kind of love God wants us to exercise for one another is "A steadfast, sacrificial zeal for pursuing the true good of another". Wouldn't you agree that the "true good" would include "do no harm", and allowing kids find themselves at home in the bodies their Creator blessed them with? Please kill this bill, for the sake of all Coloradans. Sincerely, Kevin Thompson

Steve Asay Against himself	To the Committee Chair and Members of the Committee, My name is Steve Asay, and I am a resident of Highlands Ranch, Colorado. I am writing in opposition to bill HB25-1312, "Legal Protection for Transgender Individuals." The way I read and understand this bill is that "deadnaming," which is calling someone by their given name, and "misgendering," which is referring to someone as their birth sex, if this bill is passed, would be considered a form of coercion. And that this type of so-called coercion will be considered and used against me and other parents in Colorado, if a court needs to decide a child custody case. Let me throw out a possible scenario. Let's say, for illustration, that a child comes home from school having been influenced by someone, that he is a girl. This is not difficult to imagine, given what we've seen happen in Colorado in recent years. His parents tell him, no, he is most definitely a boy, and he's been a boy his entire life; he has XY chromosomes throughout his body. God has made him a boy. He goes back to school and tells some authorities that his parents have told him that he is a boy, not a girl. Said authorities can now take this so-called "misgendering" and label it as "coercive control." Other authorities can now be notified that they are unfit parents, abusing him with "coercive control." This can be now used against them in court of law, and they can then lose custody of their child. Their son would now be gone; he would be out of their protection and subject to the desires and whims of strangers, who now proceed to convince him entirely that he is a girl. This poor boy ends up having surgical procedures that mutilate his body, to appear as a girl. He is given drugs that wreak havoc on his body for the rest of his life and prevent him from ever having his own children. This family has been torn apart. Torn apart by the state...by you who are voting for this bill. All because the parents told their son that he is a boy, the truth. Another truth, you who pass this bill, should be aware of is this: Luke 17:2, Jesus Christ said "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones." I urge you to vote against this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Sincerely, Steve Asay
David Rick Against himself	The proposal of this bill is madness!! Are the thoughts and feelings of adolescent children always true?

	Our educators have educated our nation's population with a horrible lie! They taught our children that their individual perception of reality was true. That if you feel something is true then it is true. Nonsense!! Parents are responsible for protecting their children from the lies of the world. Parents will make errors because they are human, and they will believe lies themselves because they don't always know the truth. So too, the State government will make errors because they are human, and they will believe lies because they don't always know the truth. A parent is always responsible for their children, and they will be held accountable for the results of their parenting. A governing body will NEVER be held accountable for the lies they are planning to force parents to enforce. VOTE NO ON HB-1312!!
Micah Tedeschi For Four Corners Rainbow Youth Center	As an employee at the Four Corners Rainbow Youth Center in Durango, every day I see firsthand how important it is to pass the Kelly Loving Act. We work with mostly trans youth, and I hear all the time about the impact that being misgendered and deadnamed can have on the mental health of young trans people. Young trans people are one of the highest risk populations for suicide attempts, and the having adults affirming of a youth's gender identity drastically decreases the risk of suicide. This bill will help hold adults accountable to use the correct pronouns and chosen name, which simply put will benefit the mental and physical health of trans youth. Right now, Colorado is one of the states with the strongest protections for Trans people, while in many other states it is becoming increasingly more and more dangerous to be Trans. That means that many trans folks are coming to Colorado seeking a safety, so it is our responsibility to make sure that we do everything possible to protect our most vulnerable most prosecuted population. Thank you for your time.
Jennifer Brown Against herself	My name is Jennifer. I am a teacher and an active member of my community. Please vote no on this bill! It has been dissected and at this point needs to be stopped. Leave the parenting up to the parents and keep law-making to what it should be. This is not a bill that falls under your authority. This bill does not support the families in my community.

	Vote no. Thank you.
Jenny Owen For themselves	I am a retired special education teacher. The absolute proof I have that gender identification is NOT a "choice," is the 8-year old boy (my apologies for mis-gendering) that was my student 15 years ago. At 8 years old he couldn't keep his hands out of the girls' hair... always wanting to style it. He often did their makeup and painted their nails. His clothes were colorful... dazzling. At 8 years old he was flamboyantly gay, and so comfortable in his humanity, because those of us who knew and loved him allowed him to be who God made him to be. He was precious, beautiful, confident, and kind. My heart has ached for him over the years because I know how society wounds people who don't fit in the tiny box that is defined as "normal." This beautiful child of God, and all the other children of God who are just trying to be who and how they were born to be, DESERVE PROTECTIONS! I call on my elected representatives to SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 25-1312... It is the only right thing to do!
Ronda Blehm-Kuk Against themselves	I believe parents are responsible for and the best advocates for their children. There should be no place in our country for government to step in and coerce or even remove children from a parent because they refuse to go along with the latest radical idea by labeling it as "abuse". This is a gross overstepping of control and interference between family members. We don't need the government to make family decisions for us!
Edward Sanders For themselves	As the clock turned to midnight on November 20, 2022 at Club Q in Colorado Springs—the day honored as Transgender Day of Remembrance—I fell to the ground with bullets in my body. Kelly Loving, a transgender woman celebrating her 40th birthday, landed on me. I tried to help her as I could with paper towels while injured, supplied by the brave surviving bartender who came out of hiding while the bullets were still flying in the other room. I am a survivor of the tragic attack on Club Q. Since the day this tragedy struck my community my calling has become clear. I must support trans rights in Colorado. I have lived in Colorado Springs for many years. I have watched mayors, governors, and presidents change. One thing I have not seen change is the way that transgender people are treated in my community. There are transgender people around me who struggle to find a job where they can be out as themselves. I know transgender people struggling every month to pay rent or get food because they are outsiders in their community. Trans people in the Springs cannot get healthcare for routine medical struggles because they are discriminated against by their providers. Their doctor will not call

	them by their name or pronouns—no matter how many times the person asks for it. So they do not get care. They suffer. There are transgender children in our city who cannot go to school without bullying from adults about their names and how they appear in class. Kids in our community are suffering from going to school. They deserve the same future as any child. The Kelly Loving Act is simple. It allows trans people to enjoy the same rights as the rest of us. As a survivor of Club Q I cannot be silent. I survived for a reason and that is to fight for trans rights. Support the Kelly Loving Act.
Thea LaVigna For themselves	I support this bill to protect trans rights!!
Jacinda Taylor For themselves	Hello, I am for this bill because it protects human beings. This community has been a pillar of denver for decades. All humans deserve protection and equal rights. I support my trans community whole heartily. Let's keep them safe. Safety in schools is so important for all children. My nephew is trans and he has been able to thrive and have a good childhood because of these laws protecting him. I want to see that all trans children have beautiful childhoods and grow up into supported adults.
Tina Koranda Against themselves	I write to you today with grave concerns about HB 25-1312. I am one of many thousands of Christians residing here in the state of Colorado and want my voice heard. In recent years, Colorado has garnered a reputation as a state that is hostile to Christians and other people of faith who adhere to biblical teaching and biological realities on matters such as marriage, family, and sexuality. While these actions have all thankfully been struck down by courts, the legislation before you would codify the anti-Christian moves we have seen in recent years. Is such animus toward people of faith the kind of legacy you want to leave for Colorado? Here are just a few of the many concerns we have about HB 25-1312: -Allows Colorado courts to consider "deadnaming,

	" using a person's name given at birth, and "misgendering," using a person's correct, biologically corresponding pronouns, when determining child custody cases. -Requires dress-coded public schools to allow children of either biological sex to choose between following the boys or girls dress code without their parent's consent or guidance. Christian parents should not have to choose between their faith and public schools. -And defines "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as discriminatory acts under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. These provisions are nothing short of an attack on human dignity, people of faith, and anyone who questions the ever-changing cultural definitions of sexuality. Should this bill become law, it threatens the conscience rights of individuals, the relationship between parents and children, basic free speech rights for all, and will inevitably lead to conflict between church and state. As an elected representative for Colorado, this should be an unacceptable proposition for you, regardless of partisan commitments. We would urge you to vote against this destructive legislation. It should be clear by now that, nationwide, our culture is rejecting this sort of extremist agenda. Colorado should not be the place where it takes its final stand. Respectfully, Tina Koranda Parker, CO
Tim McCormack Against himself	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312.
Ida Houston	Please vote for HB25-1312. As a retired teacher, I worked with children of all colors and ethnicities, to include Trans kids. To me, it is important that these children be

For themselves	listened to and respected. The suicide rate for LGBTQ teenagers is high. I know there are people who would rather they go away or die, but they are human, too, just like the rest of us and have a right to grow and learn. In Section 2 of this bill, you state "deadnaming, misgendering, or threatening to publish material related to an individual's gender-affirming health-care services as types of coercive control". In my humble opinion, if a parent or someone else chooses these options they are disrespecting the child's emotional well-being and beliefs and do not truly care for the child, but instead they care for their own status. Section 3: We can't worry about what other states are doing or requiring. If you've worked with teenage LGBTQ and Trans kids, you know their emotional well-being is what will get them to adulthood. Kids can be cruel to others. Gender-affirming health-care services will help bridge the emotional gap these kids experience. Section 4: Of course, as a former teacher, I'm not going to deny calling a student by his or her preferred name. What about nicknames? Are we supposed to forego those as well? Section 5 & 6: Dress Code...have you seen the way teenagers dress? They will wear clothes that are "fun" for them. I've been in schools where there is a dress code for girls (so boys don't get "distracted") but not boys. I point to the 14th Amendment of the Constitution with "EQUAL" protection of the laws. Section 7 & 8: Once again, in my humble opinion, deadnaming and misgendering are discriminatory and disrespectful acts. Teachers have to work with ALL students, not just the ones people would prefer to work with. If it's discriminatory to not work with a kid because he's a certain color or poor, it's discriminatory to also act like a Trans-student should not be Trans. It is what it is. Please vote FOR HB25-1312. Please. So our kids grow up to be healthy adults, regardless of your or my beliefs. Thank you, Ida Houston
Alex Muckleroy Against	Madam Chair, members of the committee, Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify before this committee. My name is Alex Muckleroy, and I am from Windsor, Colorado. I am testifying as a Christian, a husband, and a father. You have been

themselves	entrusted with a great responsibility and I am glad to encourage you in your duty and do my best to hold you accountable to it as a citizen. Whether you want to acknowledge it or not, there is an authority above you. God has put you in the position you occupy, and you will answer to him for how you serve in that role. He has commissioned you to reward good and punish evil. And today you have a chance to do that. Today a bill comes before you that rewards evil and punishes good. And if you choose to pass this bill, you are doing the very opposite of what you have been elected to do. Your job is protect the citizens of Colorado, uphold the law, and rule justly. This bill violates every part of that responsibility. It protects neither children nor parents. It infringes upon the constitutional rights of parents and religious people who cannot affirm the movement of transgenderism because it goes against the very fabric of reality. It uses words like "misgendering" and "deadnaming" which sound more like terms out of 1984 than crimes in the United States of America. Not only does this legislation promote an ideology that is as dangerous as it is false, but it targets the most vulnerable among us. Children need to be protected. We know this when it comes to sexual predators and the Internet and drugs. Why would it be any different for the drugs and procedures that cause irreversible damage? For more on the harm this movement has caused and will cause if not halted, see Abigail Shrier's book by that title (Irreversible Damage). This so-called gender-affirming care (a euphemism that could make even a totalitarian dictator blush) should be called what it is. Child mutilation. HB25-1312 declares war on parents. It declares war on free speech. It declares war on any business or school not willing to wave the flag and join in the madness. It declares war on reality because it declares war on God Himself. You must stop this, and you have been placed in a position to do so. Are you willing to forego protecting Colorado's children to satisfy trans activists and lobbyists? Are you willing to squash your conscience so you can vote along party lines or take the path of least resistance? Are you willing to stand before God and answer for a bill that contradicts the most basic facts about the humans He has made? Or are you willing to discharge the duty you swore to perform? Are you willing to defend the children who cannot stand for themselves? And when it comes down to it, are you willing to reward good and punish evil? I pray that you are. Do not pass this bill. May God give you courage to do what you must. Thank you.
Aaron Lucas	To Whom It May Concern,

Against themselves	I am writing as a concerned Christian citizen and pastor regarding Colorado House Bill HB25-1312. While I understand the intent behind the legislation, I must respectfully express my opposition based on my deeply held faith values. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to uphold truth, protect the sanctity of life, and honor God's design for humanity. Any legislation that promotes ideas or actions contrary to biblical principles challenges not only our conscience but also our ability to live out our faith freely in the public square. Our opposition is not rooted in hate or intolerance, but in love, conviction, and a desire to see policies that align with moral truth and promote human flourishing as defined by Scripture. We believe government should protect religious freedom and consider the moral convictions of the communities it serves. I urge you to reconsider the implications of HB25-1312 and ensure that the voices of people of faith are heard and respected in this process. Sincerely, Pastor Aaron Lucas
Celine Fuqua Against themselves	Hello my name is Celine. I'm representing myself. I am against the bill at hand. This bill completely strips away parental rights and is illogical. Since when has this world become about affirming feelings and gender dysphoria instead of telling our children they are perfectly made the way they are and don't need to make a permanent decision before their brain is even fully developed Affirming a delusion that a CHILD believes about themselves goes against what science proves is true. We cannot change our chromosomes. There is only two genders. And we should not be forced to affirm a delusion. And if we don't affirm a delusion that goes against what science proves is true we then get our parental rights stripped from us??? This is not okay. Instead of parental rights being taken away for ABUSE OR NEGLECT it's now for not calling a child by a new name and gender they choose??? Us parents raise birth cloth and care for our children like no one else can.. because ...we KNOW what's best for them. The state doesn't care for our children the way we do. The state can never replace us. We as parents have a right to protect our children and do what's best for them. The state doesn't get to dictate that or strip it from us.

	This is also a violation of our religious rights and beliefs. And SO MUCH MORE. We are against this bill. Thank you.
Everett Wolfe Against himself	Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Everett Wolfe, and I'm the father of an elementary school student here in Colorado. I stand before you to express my strong opposition to House Bill 25-1312. This isn't just about policy—it's personal for all of us. I invite each representative here to consider how you would feel if your own parental authority over your children or grandchildren was undermined. This bill creates dangerous complications in already difficult family situations, particularly during custody disputes. When parents disagree about what's best for their child, this legislation could allow one parent to make unilateral decisions without the other's knowledge or consent. It could become a weapon in contentious divorces, where a parent might leverage these new provisions to exclude the other parent from critical decisions about their child's wellbeing. Consider how this might play out: one parent could effectively bypass court-ordered custody arrangements by working directly with schools or healthcare providers, potentially circumventing the legal rights of the other parent. This undermines our family court system and creates confusion about whose authority prevails—a judge's custody order or this new legislation. Those voting in favor of this bill should recognize that its effects won't discriminate based on political affiliation. The precedent it sets could one day impact your own families or those of people you know navigating divorce or co-parenting challenges. When government authority expands into family decision-making, it complicates an already complex legal landscape. Today you may believe you're supporting a bill that aligns with your values, but what happens when it's used in ways you never intended? Consider the long-term consequences of eroding parental rights in these vulnerable family situations. I urge you to vote against HB 25-1312. Instead, let's develop policies that strengthen families, respect the court's role in resolving custody matters, and uphold the rights of all parents. Our children deserve better than legislation that could be weaponized during their most vulnerable moments.

	Thank you for your consideration.
Lindi Todd Against themselves	When Rep Caldwell asked Rep Yara this simple and valid question: "were parent groups that are not part of the LGBT community" involved in the discussion of this bill (one that will affect every single Coloradan), Yara said, "it does not need to be discussed with hate groups or the KKK." This is my first time giving testimony on any bill. I have in the past been content to observe the process from afar and vote my conscience. However, when I heard this from Yara, I knew that I could no longer stay silent. We have an elected representative that is likening good, loving parents to hate groups and the KKK for the simple crime of not prescribing to her ideas immediately and without question. At the beginning of this today I heard the someone say something along the lines of, "we want to ensure that the trans community gets the same rights as the rest of society." Well the rest of society does not get to use the government to punish people for not calling them by the names that they want. You cannot use the government to force citizens into using certain speech. With elections coming up, Is this really what democrats want to be known for? A bill (and representstive) that spits on parental rights and the right to speech, a bill that the majority of Coloradoans are against, a bill that will likely cost Coloradans millions of dollars, do you REALLY want to align yourselves with extreme radical far leftists like Yara Zokaie? Do democrats really want to be aligned with a bill that could so easily become a legal weapon in custody battles where all one parent has to do in order to get custody rights is declare that their child is now trans or identifying differently and then accuse the other parent of not going along with it (even if the child never expressed this identity themselves, and even if the other parent has reasonable grounds for not going along with it- whether that be for caution, concern, or religious belief)? This bill removes the ability of parents to thoughtfully, cautiously, and lovingly parent their child. It forces parents to immediately jump into a position of affirming a complete identity change in their child, regardless of age or evidence, even if that's not what is best for the child! And who knows what is best for a child? Not the government! The parent!
Madalyn Drewno For	My name is Madalyn Drewno, I have been a resident of Colorado for 30 years and I am representing myself today in support of the Kelly Loving Act. Passing the Kelly Loving Act is a critical step towards creating legal protections for trans youth, trans students, and trans workers. Intentional deadnaming and misgendering is a form of

themselves	prejudice and is used to invalidate a trans person's humanity, while also creating a hostile and discriminatory workplace and school environment. This impact of deadnaming and misgendering can cause significant psychological and emotional harm and can also exacerbate a person's ongoing mental health challenges like depression and suicide ideation—both of which are found to be significantly experienced by trans youth. By adding deadnaming and misgendering to Colorado's anti-discrimination laws and requiring schools to adopt trans-inclusive policies, the Kelly Loving Act will help establish a more just and life affirming world not only for trans people, but for everyone because when we stand up for our most marginalized communities we collectively strengthen our humanity. The claim that this bill infringes on parental rights, assumes that parental rights are absolute when in fact they are limited. Any decision or action should be in a child's best interest, and it is the responsibility of the people and the law to protect children from harmful actions and decisions. Deadnaming and misgendering can be a form of emotional abuse which is defined in Colorado as "an identifiable and substantial impairment or a substantial risk of impairment of the child's intellectual or psychological functioning or development." As previously mentioned, deadnaming and misgendering has been found to have substantial or substantial risk of psychological and emotional harm. Deadnaming and misgendering also fits within the definition of emotional abuse as "using actions or words that attack the child's self-worth and jeopardize the child's mental health." These words and actions may include embarrassment, isolation, belittling, or rejection of the child all of which can also occur when deadnaming and misgendering. Thus when it comes to child custody cases, this bill correctly asserts that deadnaming and misgendering should be considered a factor in determining the best interest of a child in family law contexts. This bill would not take away the broad discretion judges already have when ruling on child custody cases, but it does bring into the conversation necessary considerations that are specific and unique to trans youth.
David Santa Cruz Against themselves	Thank you Madam Chair and the Senate Judiciary Committee. I'm David Santa Cruz and I'm representing myself at this hearing. As a husband and father of two home-schooled daughters, I have observed a trend in much of the witness testimony, and it's the common denominator of the school system. I was warmly educated in the Los Angeles Unified School District so I'm no stranger to the wonders of a solid public school upbringing. This venerated church of the state, referred to in the bill as the "local education provider", the harmless hero of our children, if you'll recall, was actually the same entity that forced students into online classrooms just 5 short years ago. Not to mention the countless times that "educators" have been caught sexually molesting, abusing and grooming these students for which they supposedly care. My purpose in testifying here today is twofold: first, I want to respectfully warn this body that the continued overreach of government into the home will have consequences. This is because God created the family. Nearly every time I read the local news, public schools across the state are losing students, closing schools, and being caught

	up in controversies. HB25-1312 sends a message to parents that they could lose custody of their child(ren) if they call them an incorrect name. That's terrifying to me as a parent and it should terrify any parent, but to me, that simply equates to parents keeping their children home. Secondly, I speak directly to parents. Consider homeschooling your children. It's difficult and messy, there's no clocking out, you will likely be poor, but it's the God-given and most beautiful way for a mom and dad to raise healthy youngsters. Plus it beats having a compassionate government (to quote one of the sponsors) threaten to take your children from you. Please vote no on this bill.
Emily Post For themselves	Hello, my name is Emily Post, and I'm a trans-ally from Lakewood, speaking for myself. I am here today in support of House Bill 1312. I have a transgender nephew and a long-time friend who are both transgender, and their experiences have profoundly influenced me. My nephew is about to graduate from high school and will soon attend college. This critical moment in his life fills me with hope, but also concern. I want him to venture into the world with confidence, free from the fear of discrimination and being accepted for who he is. I want him to live in a society where he can pursue his aspirations, secure employment, and make meaningful contributions without the risk of unjust treatment. This bill can help create such a world. This bill will help to protect transgender individuals, allowing them to live openly and without fear of discrimination based on their true gender. My friend has embraced their true identity and deserves to live safely and freely. For them, my nephew, and every transgender person, this bill is essential for fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. This bill emphasizes dignity, respect, and equal rights for everyone. By supporting this bill, we stand against discrimination and reaffirm our commitment to human rights. Let us work towards a future where everyone feels safe, valued, and empowered to be themselves. I hope you vote yes to pass this bill. Thank you for your attention.
Andrea Coyle For themselves	The best interest of the child should be always be considered and should always include using their correct name and pronoun. Intentionally not using these are abusive and unacceptable in all cases. All children should have access to the healthcare they need. They should have access to the clothing that most fits their needs, including following the dress code that fits their gender identity.
Debra Kovtynovich Against themselves	Please do not pass this bill. It is vile and evil
Jennifer Wood Against themselves	I want to quickly start by being perfectly clear: I speak with deep concern, not hate. I do not hate those in the LGBTQ+ community. As a Christian, I do not believe members of this community deserve to die. That being said, the transgender agenda is an epidemic. And this bill is absolutely terrifying. In my mind, there are two problems here: First, this bill furthers a destructive ideology that is at war with reality. There are only two genders; how

	someone may feel does not change that. Genesis 1:27 says, "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." To argue otherwise is to reject not only the obvious facts of reality, but also the extremely clear Word of God. Like many have said before me, most kids who are gender confused become fine with their God-given gender. The harm to kids who end up transitioning when they're confused is unequivocal. Not to mention that the frontal lobe doesn't fully develop until the age of 25-30. Some of my female friends growing up were tomboys and their genders were NEVER questioned. They just weren't into pink, frilly things. They liked sports. This agenda is being pushed so much nowadays. Why can't a tomboy be a tomboy? Why now "she should have been a boy?" It's insane. Secondly, this measure would bind the consciences of our fellow citizens like my Bible-believing friends and family who affirm the Word of God, but could be punished for following their personal beliefs in not affirming the gender-confusion that is so prevalent in our society. This is a clear violation of the freedom of speech and it violates the fact that all men are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." This bill, cloaked under emotional cliches, is a violent tyranny against that God-given right to free speech. I am infertile. It took 10 years to start my family. I did not go through 10 years of pain and suffering just to see my son grow up in such an evil state of affairs. This isn't just about differing perspectives on gender dysphoria; it's about our fundamental, God-given right to speak our minds, hearts, and consciences freely. I choose to follow the example of David and fight the Goliaths of this day and age. If this opposition comes before me, I WILL stand against it – and then keep standing in every way I can, while encouraging others to do the same. I pray it will not come to that. We need you and your colleagues who still believe in sanity and liberty to fight for us now. Stand for us! Thank you.
Cathrine Coots Against herself	I am testifying today to VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE HB25-1312. I am a mother of 2 men, and a grandmother of a beautiful 6 year old granddaughter, and I fear that my children and grandchildren's religious freedoms are at stake with the passing of this bill. Additionally, I am certain our minor children and grandchildren are not equipped with the maturity, knowledge or life experience to make life changing decisions regarding their health and well being. I will not stand idly by while my state and local government attempt to redefine truth and attack the biblical principles our nation was founded on. Both the truth of God's Word, and the biology of human beings make it very clear that there are only two genders, male and female. The scientific definition of a man/male is defined as being a human born with XY chromosomes that has a penis and testicles, and can produce sperm for the purpose of procreation.

	The biblical definition of a man/male is defined as a human species created by God, in His own image, to have dominion over creation. The scientific definition of a female is defined as being a human born with XX chromosomes that has a vagina, can bear offspring or produce eggs, distinguished biologically by the production of gametes that can be fertilized by male sperm to reproduce. The biblical definition of a woman/female is defined as a human species created by God, as a complement to man, to be a life-bringer and life-bearer. These are indisputable facts. It is also an indisputable fact that parents in the United States of America have constitutional rights related to the care, custody, and upbringing of their children, primarily protected by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. This right includes the freedom to make decisions about their children's education, religious upbringing and medical care. How can you possibly suggest that you are in a better position to know what's best for the education, religious upbringing and medical care of my child? Do you have any idea what a dangerous precedence you are setting if you pass this bill? Do you have any idea how devastating the consequences of passing this bill will be on Colorado families, especially children? Parents in Colorado could soon be declared unfit for referring to their child by their legal name. Health professionals could face sanctions for maintaining accurate medical records. Employers could be held liable for allowing employees to express constitutionally protected views online. This is not an anti-discrimination law, this is government-mandated ideology. You cannot take away the rights of Colorado families, religious organizations and business owners, that are afforded to us by the United States Constitution. I implore you to search your conscience, whether biblically rooted or not, and realize what this bill could do to our most vulnerable Colorado citizens, our young children. This bill represents an egregious assault on parental rights, freedom of speech, religious liberty, reason and science, and, most importantly, the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children. I will end my testimony with this, on this very day in history, April 30, 1789 was the inaugural inauguration for President George Washington. He was sworn into office on the steps of Federal Hall in NYC. In an excerpt from his speech, he is quoted as saying "The propitious smiles of Heaven, can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained." On March 30, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued a national proclamation designating April 30, 1863 as a day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer. This proclamation, detailed in Proclamation 97, was a response to a request from the U.S. Senate and aimed to unite the nation in a period of national crisis. He said in part, "Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness." -Abraham Lincoln, March 30, 1863. I echo the prayers of President George Washington and President Abraham Lincoln today, and I pray for your souls if you pass this bill. The Lord God Almighty WILL NOT BE MOCKED. The Lord God Almighty is ALWAYS in the details. The Lord God Almighty is ALWAYS right and just. The Lord God Almighty's glory and honor will ALWAYS win out over evil. AMEN! I URGE YOU TO VOTE NO ON HB25-1312

Matthew Nguyen For themselves	My name is Matthew Nguyen. I live in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. I would like to voice my support for HB25-1312, specifically the Kelly Loving Act. I believe that Colorado is a place where all are welcome, no matter who you are, where you come from, your race, your religion, your sex, or your gender, you are welcome here. I want to stress that this bill does not have to be split by partisan lines. When reviewing this bill, I am reminded of the Utah governor's veto of Utah's 2022 law, HB11, which bans transgender youth from competing in school sports consistent to their gender identity. In his letter explaining the reason for his veto, Governor Spencer Cox, a Republican, wrote, "I must admit, I am not an expert on transgenderism. I struggle to understand so much of it and the science is conflicting. When in doubt however, I always try to err on the side of kindness, mercy and compassion. I also try to get proximate and I am learning so much from our transgender community. They are great kids who face enormous struggles. Here are the numbers that have most impacted my decision: 75,000, 4, 1, 86 and 56. 75,000 high school kids participating in high school sports in Utah. 4 transgender kids playing high school sports in Utah. 1 transgender student playing girls sports. 86% of trans youth reporting suicidality. 56% of trans youth having attempted suicide. Four kids and only one of them playing girls sports. That's what all of this is about. Four kids who aren't dominating or winning trophies or taking scholarships. Four kids who are just trying to find some friends and feel like they are a part of something. Four kids trying to get through each day. Rarely has so much fear and anger been directed at so few. I don't understand what they are going through or why they feel the way they do. But I want them to live. And all the research shows that even a little acceptance and connection can reduce suicidality significantly. For that reason, as much as any other, I have taken this action in the hope that we can continue to work together and find a better way." I want to end my testimony with the common saying, "a society's true measure of progress and well-being is reflected in how it cares for its most vulnerable members." Everybody deserves to live their life for who they are, especially in Colorado. Therefore, I urge the legislature to vote yes to HB25-1312. Thank you.
Elliot Fladen Against themselves	I am writing on behalf of myself as an agnostic man not of faith. Bullying kids is not acceptable — whether they are trans or not. Every person deserves dignity. But disagreement is not bullying, not abuse, and certainly not coercive control. In a free society, disagreement is not only permitted — it's essential. Especially when that disagreement is not just grounded in science and conscience, but is correct. According to Pew Research Center, a growing majority of Americans agree that gender is determined by sex assigned at birth:

	• 54% in 2017 • 56% in 2021 • 60% in 2022 • 65% in 2024 Just because some want gender to be socially constructed apart from sex doesn't mean society has constructed it that way. It hasn't. And it isn't respect to use government force to bully the majority into pretending that fiction is truth. Respect is a two-way street. Threatening people unless they affirm contested or false claims isn't respect — it's coercion. That coercion will lead Colorado into lawsuits over the First Amendment and the parental rights of its own citizens. This bill doesn't protect children — it enforces ideology, and punishes parents for holding a view shared by most Americans, backed by biology, and rooted in common sense.
Jon Kuhne For himself	The trans community has clearly become a target and has come under attack from certain segments of our society as well as from our country's new presidential administration. It is our responsibility to stand against these attacks and defend these members of our community who are being targeted. This bill would provide some basic protections for trans people who have historically and through to this very day faced incredible discrimination. It is essential that we have moral clarity on this issue; that we reject bigotry whether it's blatant bigotry, or more subtle bigotry phrased with nicer sounding words meant to make it appear more reasonable. In our country we have had to deal with slavery, with segregation, and with discriminatory voting laws. On all of these issues there were many people defending these things and attempting to make arguments that sounded reasonable. They were wrong, and today we easily recognize that, but at the time, the arguments they made served to create moral confusion on what were really morally obvious issues. Today we are faced with a similar situation. What is right is very clear. It is our responsibility to stand for all people's basic rights, and reject discrimination in any form. I strongly encourage all members of the committee to vote to pass this bill.
Maureen Cossoff Against himself	Hello, I am against this bill. I cannot imagine a world where a parent would lose the right to be concerned, be unable to guide or disallow their child to be transitioned. God created two genders, male and female. It is against our constitutional rights to speak up against something. This is a totalitarian, evil bill. We are not China or Russia - yet.

	How did this bill get this far? Why so much bandwidth on this when there are so many other good and needed changes? I hope you are able to see how much harm this will cause on so many levels if the bill is passed. I hope you will ask God to give you wisdom because his Word which is true will tell you not to do this. Thank you.
Michele Markham Against themselves	Testifying Against HB25-1312 · Good evening & thank you, Madame Chair, and thank you members of the committee. · My name is Michele Markham, and I am testifying as a concerned mother against HB-1312 I am a mother of two young adults and let me tell you raising tweens and teens is not easy but that's not news to anybody here – the reason I am here tonight is; I pulled my kids from a Colorado public school during their middle school & high school years to a Catholic school b/c they were bullied for their Catholic lifestyle and not living the hyper-sexualized culture in the schools. My nieces and nephews were also pulled from another Colorado public school for a similar situation. Now, after hearing all of these stories from many in this community tonight, maybe we should be looking at the school system instead of the parents. Even though I am against this bill, I am not a hateful person. I am sorry to the transgender community for any hateful words you have incurred. This does not besit your dignity as the beautiful human beings you are. However, this bill still leaves our very vulnerable youth to outside influences & ideologies. This is my concern. Parents are the first and foremost protectors and teachers of their children. We need to keep them from rushing into very harmful and lifelong damaging decisions. Growing up isn't easy, puberty isn't easy, and it doesn't help if there are any emotional/mental health issues involved. But we need to allow time and maturity to catch up with the person before big decisions are made. Many previous people, parents, physicians and counselors, on the "against" side have brought up multiple wonderful points and I want to thank them, I won't bother to repeat them. I am also concerned that HB-1312 would coerce religious institutions outside of church buildings (ie, schools, hospitals, homeless shelters), other nonprofits, private businesses and individuals to conform to government-mandated beliefs about sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. I recognize this bill may have stemmed from a painful situation with care and concern, but it is not a good solution. Please vote "no" on HB-1312. Thank you for your time.
Janet Gillis	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312.

Against themselves	This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Victor Moore Against themselves	HB25-1312 As it takes away parental rights and authority. Parental rights/consent are a inherent right woven in the fabric of our society and is required for many things in our daily lives such as following: - To take an aspirin at school - To go on a field trip - To participate in sports at school - To obtain a temporary license to drive a car - To join the military early - To receive treatment at the doctors or hospitals - To have their teeth cleaned - To open a bank account - To get a passport - To get their ears pierced - And the list goes on These a normal everyday events, but gender transition is a life changing event and should only be undertaken by mature adults.

	I think children should be allowed to be children and if they want to transition once they become an adult after careful consideration they should be allowed to do as they desire Our society has held parents responsible for the well being of their children until they become adults when they release them to have an impact on the world. Please don't take away the rights of parents. Please vote no for HB25-1312 Thank you Victor Moore
Mary Razatos Against herself	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Julia Walker Against herself	My name is Julia Walker, and I am speaking to you today not as a legal expert or policy analyst, but as a deeply concerned parent. I respectfully urge you to vote no on HB25-1312, also known as the "Kelly Loving Act." While I understand and appreciate the desire to ensure protections for all individuals-especially vulnerable youth-this bill contains language and consequences that could do irreversible harm to families like mine. 1. Threat to Parental Rights Under HB25-1312, normal parental behaviors-such as referring to one's child by their birth name or biological pronouns-could be interpreted as "coercive control" and

	factored into custody decisions. This turns deeply personal and often complex family conversations into legal risks. Parents should never have to fear losing custody of their child simply because they are navigating a difficult, emotional journey with care and concern. 2. Unfair Silencing of Families The bill also proposes that misgendering or deadnaming be treated as discriminatory acts in public spaces. While I agree that no one should be harassed, this kind of language leaves no room for nuance, personal belief, or even innocent mistakes. It risks criminalizing not just speech, but a parent's ability to lovingly guide their child. 3. Abuse of Custody Law In high-conflict divorces or custody disputes, one parent could claim "misgendering" as a weapon against the other, even when genuine concern or confusion is at the heart of the matter. This undermines the integrity of the family court system and opens the door for manipulation under the guise of advocacy. 4. Lack of Parental Involvement in Schools HB25-1312 allows students to use chosen names and pronouns at school without requiring parental notification or input. This effectively sidelines parents at a time when their guidance is most crucial. Schools should be partners with families-not secret decision-makers. Conclusion As a parent, I love my children unconditionally. I want them to feel seen, supported, and protected. But I also want the ability to parent them-with care, with honesty, and without fear that my decisions will be second-guessed or punished by the law. HB25-1312, despite its intentions, jeopardizes the sacred bond between parents and children. It replaces trust with suspicion and dialogue with litigation. I implore you to reconsider the broader impact this bill could have on families across Colorado and vote no on HB25-1312. Lastly, I'd like to add, I am a single mom with 2 incredible children. I have done my best in raising them but know I am not perfect and have made mistakes along this parenting journey. However, I do not deserve to be persecuted for making mistakes as specified within this bill. This bill removes comfort and trust to parent without fear of persecution or being labeled as an abuser. This bill breaks down the freedom to speak freely, openly and from love because it can be used against me and other parents. This bill needs to be killed. It does not represent the voice of Colorado. Please vote "NO" on HB25-1312. Thank you for reading my written testimony on this matter.
Weston Kurz Against Colorado Association of Private Schools	Please vote your convictions and not your caucus on HB1312 and vote no. This is a battle for truth over identity. The bill seems to be put together haphazardly without thought for the Constitution. This is evident by the amount of last minute amendments. Private school leaders are concerned about the impact of this bill

	parental rights and their ability to mentor children based on closely held religious beliefs. This issue is a health issue primarily related to Gender Dysphoria. There is no clear studies one way or another on whether these procedures are actually beneficial in the long run. Finally, I don't understand how this bill could have a zero fiscal note impact? This bill would require schools to have to increase costs in order to comply. Thank you for consideration of this testimony.
Amanda Borchers Against themselves	This bill criminalizes calling your child by the name you gave him or her at birth. It assumes that a parent who doesn't "affirm" a child's "gender identity" is abusive! Some parents are abusive, and should certainly be stopped, but this is not the norm, nor is gender confusion. Parents love their children and want them to love and accept themselves as they are, not to buy into a societal craze. Gender ideology is not scientific; it is ideological, and this bill sets a precedent that says anyone who does not buy into this ideology may have their children taken from them. It's religious persecution against those who don't subscribe to the religion of the left, which seems to be self-worship. Colorado has been my family's home for generations, but bills like this, which actively seek to persecute and strip rights away from those who don't share the ideology of relativism and self-worship, are driving people like me out. So much for "inclusion." Finally, I have hope that this unconstitutional bill won't hold up even if it is passed, but if you were to stop it now and vote no, it would be a sign and a step back towards sanity.
Renee Ludlam For themselves	As a parent, a Colorado Springs resident, and as a Christian, I support this bill and the support it gives to trans people. The Kelly Loving Act extends protections to transgender kids, parents, and community members that most Coloradans already enjoy. It ensures that people are not harassed, discriminated against, or have their identity used against them in family court matters. These are very simple protections that are incredibly important as we see increasing targeting by the Trump Administration. Transgender people are under attack across the country and we must do everything we can to protect them in our state. The Kelly Loving Act is broadly supported by your constituents.
Nadja Craven Against themselves	To quote Representative Rebekah Stewart who is for this bill "a child deserves to live in a loving and supportive home" and you're right, but this bill is NOT encouraging that. It's encouraging the exact opposite. It's telling a child they know better than their parents and they can make BIG decisions in vulnerable years, before they even have a full understanding. If they're capable of such a big decision, why can't they drive until 18? Why can't they drink until 21? And vote until 18? And more.

	There were many times my parents tried telling me I shouldn't do something and I didn't listen because "they didn't know better than me" - well I was wrong and they were right. I look back on my vulnerable years and I SEE why my parents were guiding me and directing me in the ways they were. They could see things I couldn't. And because I didn't listen I have wounds I am still healing from as an adult by allowing my young peers to sway the choices I made and thought were okay for me but were not. Let me ask you this. What happens when that child has a sex change because the world shouted it was okay, that, that's the reason they feel the way they do and when they have a sex change they'll "feel better". So that's what they decide they need to do, but the parents don't agree because the parents can see things a child cannot. The parents have lived before them and know the pressures of young years and that this will not "fix them". So that child tells and then they are taken away from their family because of this bill. Then that said child has a sex change and indeed it didn't "heal" their wounds. Now they're still broken, went through major surgery and they have also been removed from their parents who LOVED them and they had a good home. All because YOU said "it's okay your parents are wrong". Then what? We've created more wounds. The issue isn't gender. The issue is the world supporting the theory of "oh yeah something is wrong with you, you should change your gender or whatever it is that needs fixed". When the problem isn't who they are, it's a battle of the mind. It's Satan coming to destroy and kill who they were created to be. I've tried many things in life to "heal" myself. To blend into the world around me to be "loved" NOTHING made me feel whole until I met Jesus. We can keep putting bandaids on these situations but all we are doing is leading vulnerable children down a dangerous road telling them it's okay to change who they are rather than reminding them they're loved as they are. so today, I ask you to hear the heart of this message and to be true leaders who stand against the loud voices in Colorado trying to tell confused children something is wrong with them and they should change. I keep hearing people mentioning God (especially the other side), but no one is mentioning Satan. He's just as real. 1 Peter 5:8 says "be sober minded, be watchful. the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour". I hear the other side. I don't hate them. I agree there shouldn't be a target on their backs. They shouldn't be bullied or abused. They deserve respect and safety too, and I pray God guides them to light and truth, but I will not bow down to this. My job is to guide my child through this broken world and to eternal life, not theirs and not the states. I oppose this bill and hope you do too.
Toffee Webb For	To whomever is reading this, My name is Toffee Webb. I was raised in rural Oklahoma, and have been a trans activist in rural Colorado for the last 7 years. I write you in avid support for the Kelly Loving Act. When I was 6 I knew I was different. Not how, as no one was able to explain this to me, but in their treatment I knew I was

themselves	other. This would lead to a lifetime of suicidality and depression, not because of my gender but because of the treatment I faced at the hands of my peers, my family, and even strangers. The author and poet Joy Ladin would define this as "Systemic Othering" and relates it as a root cause of dysphoria. The language of this bill addresses just that- a pervasive and all too common avenue of othering that leads to worse outcomes in wellness, social health, and academics. Detractors will mention the coercive elements of this bill, they will say "but my kid was normal!" Why must cisgender be the default. When did you know you were cis? When you were 6 like I was? what about when you were 10, the first time I experienced coercive molestation at the hands of family members? Perhaps in middle or high school with the budding sexuality that comes at such a time- around the the time i was first raped to "set me right." Heterosexuality and cisgenderism set as the default is often violently enforced, is this not the coercion that the opposition speaks of? I urge you to pass this bill, as it is not just trans people who receive, and deserve, gender affirming care. Breast reduction, perimenopausal treatments, hair implants are all forms of gender affirmative care regularly availed to the cisgendered heterosexual population. Further I would like to point out some language and some history. First the history: the first books burnt by the Nazis were trans medical records and treatise. That is why there is not the rich and robust trans history that we know has existed since time immemorial. Now language: The word monster, a common pejorative leveled at our community, comes from the latin monstrare, "to point out." Society has labeled us as other, and has forced us into monstrosity- a state we did not choose. Please let us be human.
Annika Young Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Lindsay Post Against	Hello Senate Judiciary Committee,

themselves	I am a new resident of CO and I am writing to urge you to vote NO on HB25-1312. Since moving to CO only a few short months ago, I have become aware of 3 separate families who have had their children traumatized by adults in their life convincing them that they are someone that they are not. My closest contact is a friend that I have here. Her son was lonely in high school and was "recruited" into an underground Trans society at his high school. The adults in the group convinced him that he was either gay or that he must be a woman. Since he was lonely, he continued to go to this group and eventually allowed a teacher in the group to organize an adult to come to his house and pick him up to take him away from his parents about a week before he graduated. I know his parents. They are honest, loving and decent human beings. They were completely blindsided by this. Eventually that new family that took him in in order to "affirm" who he thought he was at the time dumped him to live in the streets. His parents called and lovingly invited him to come home and that they would always welcome him home. He chose not to come and eventually his bank account was drained, and his phone went offline. They believe that he was trafficked and have not heard from him in over 7 years. If this bill passes, these parents could be prosecuted for NOT affirming who he is - a male - born a male and just a lonely person. But with dangerous bills like this, you are taking away parental rights to love and protect their children. Deadnaming or misgendering is NOT a reason for kids to be taken from parents, or allowed to leave their home, and it is especially not a reason for parents to be prosecuted. This is a violation of Human rights - a violation of parent rights - a violation of religious rights. Once a child becomes an adult at the age of 18, they can choose who they want to be. Until that time, the child is in the CARE of their parents. If you allow a bill like this to pass, you are essentially saying that the government knows better how to parent than we parents do. This is false and a VIOLATION of our rights. I just moved from CA and my family along with thousands of others have fled that state because of the ridiculous laws passed that put children in danger. We honestly did not want our older teens to grow up and stay in a state to raise their own kids where we felt kids are in danger. CO is quickly turning into just as dangerous of a place to raise kids. You will also soon have a mass exodus in this state. I urge to to vote NO on this bill and protect parents and THEIR kids. Thank you, Lindsay Post

	Loveland, CO
Irina Obolentseva Against themselves	This bill violates religious freedom. This bill goes against family choices. This bill is anti -moral. Please, vote NO on HB25-1312.
Konstantinos Razatos Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Hope Scheppelman Against themselves	Open Letter to Senate Judiciary Committee. Good evening Chair and Committee my name is Hope Scheppelman and I represent myself. I vehemently oppose HB25-1312 deceptively named the "Kelly Loving Act." As a Critical Care Nurse Practitioner with decades of experience, I can say with absolute certainty: this is not healthcare. It is ideological extremism cloaked in false compassion, and it's putting vulnerable children at serious risk. Supporters ask, "Wouldn't you rather have a trans child than a dead child?" That is emotional blackmail, a manipulative and dangerous lie. We are not forced to choose between suicide and transition. This false narrative is driving hasty, harmful decisions, and it is costing lives.

	Too many children being rushed into so-called “gender-affirming care” are on the autism spectrum, have unresolved trauma, or remain undiagnosed. These children deserve careful, comprehensive mental health evaluations and trauma-informed care, not sterilizing hormones, puberty blockers, or irreversible surgeries. Even “social transition” changing a child’s name, pronouns, and identity without medical intervention, is not neutral or harmless. Studies show it has lasting psychological effects, reinforcing confusion rather than treating it. Once a child is affirmed in a new identity, it becomes exponentially harder for them to explore the underlying issues contributing to their distress. This path closes doors to healing and locks children into a medicalized future. Puberty is not a disease. It is a vital developmental milestone. Blocking it is not medicine. It is abuse. HB25-1312 strips away parental rights, empowers the state to make life-altering decisions, and uses vague, ideological terms like “deadnaming” and “misgendering” to punish dissent and even determine custody. That’s not protection, it’s state-sponsored coercion. This isn’t about hate, bigotry, or oppression, those accusations are weapons used to silence truth. This is about defending the reality of biology, protecting children from irreversible harm, and ensuring they receive ethical, evidence-based psychological care. We must invest in real mental health support, not enshrine radical ideology into law. HB25-1312 doesn’t save lives. It endangers them. It must be stopped.
Johnathan Jeffrey Against himself	SB25-1312 is an absolute disgrace and government tyranny at the highest level! LEAVE OUR CHILDREN ALONE!! They are OUR children NOT government property! Every sponsor of this bill needs to be removed immediately and should be arrested for civil rights violations among other constitutional violations. Don’t you DARE vote for this trash. Everyone associated is evil and vile and needs to be investigated and prosecuted for even attempting to push this communist and corrupt agenda.
Beatriz Ochoa For himself	For those who this may concern - I am a cisgender woman who fortunately hasn’t had any issues around gender identity, however, I have close people in my life who have transitioned from their sex assigned at birth and have been trans folks for sometime now. I have never seen the people I know who are trans commit a crime, hurt an individual, nor be hateful toward any group that is unfamiliar to them. These people are close to me and

	although I may be biased, I don't understand how we can push them out of our society as individuals when they aren't actively committing crimes, in fact - they are active members of society, pay their taxes, have partners, careers, and hopefully one day - a right to be themselves and continue their journey to do so without ridicule nor question that their choice to transition is wrong. What is wrong is removing the rights to identities we don't identify ourselves, simply because we do not understand. Identities evolve and if they do not hurt someone else, should be allowed to flourish fully in our society. I hope we choose acceptance, even in the state of not fully grasping - we are all humans and deserve to be ourselves. Beatriz
Taylor Vallance For themselves	To whom it may concern, My name is Taylor Vallance and I am a proud trans man and life long Colorado resident. In my life experience of being trans and a Coloradan it is abundantly clear that at times the beautiful place we all call home has been the battlefield for my autonomy and safety. I have experienced sexual harassment, medical neglect, verbal and physical threats surrounding my transness. And this just scratches the surface of both my personal experiences and the lived experiences of other trans folx here in Colorado. These protections being argued for are vital to constituents like me. They mean life and death. They mean liberated lives. Please help save future trans Coloradans and protect those who have already faced hardship here. Please do something for us. Best Taylor vallance
John Owen Against themselves	Dear Judiciary Committee. Thanks for the opportunity to speak to you, although after 8 hrs of waiting online, I never got to actually speak. This bill shouldn't be named Legal Protections for Trans Individuals, but the Further Stripping of Parents Constitutional Rights. I'm a husband, father & grandpa. I'm an educator for 30 + yrs. & a volunteer fireman for 15 yrs. When we go to a fire or accident scene, we don't ask people what their pronouns are, nor do we care. We are there to help people in a time of need. My wife is a paramedic, she must know if someone is having an ectopic pregnancy (which only women can have) or a stomach ulcer. Facts matter! What do you say to someone who seems bent on going in a direction you know from direct personal experience & decades of life experience are not good for them or anyone who might follow them? Not a lot at times for some don't seem to learn from other's mistakes & are determined not only to make their own mistakes but also cause a lot of destruction in the wake of their mistaken agendas.

	As a 6 yr. old who was awakened to sexual activity way too early by being sexually molested for 3 yrs by an adult male neighbor 60 yrs. ago and struggling with homosexuality & gender dysphoria later as a teen, I believe I have unique life experience to hopefully dissuade those who are pushing bills like HB-1312. Why are you promoting things like this when many countries in Europe, tens of thousands of young people, and hundreds of Drs. across the world & USA are not only reversing course on this, but desperately warning others not to go in this direction? I can only conclude some are pushing personal agendas rather than honestly looking out for the best interests of the citizens of Colorado. Why on earth would anyone threaten to take custody away from loving parents who don't want pseudo-science imposed on their children? Why on earth should children's innocent & very immature minds be subject to the awakening of sexual desires when they are not mature enough to handle them? Who on earth would push such Frankensteinian butchery & John Money bogus psychobabble on innocent families unless you are actually only pushing a personal agenda rather than proven science? Let me say it like Pink Floyd did over 45 yrs ago, 'leave those kids alone...' I urge all of you, for the love of children you say you have, reject bills like HB-1312, put aside these fatally flawed agendas & let families raise their kids without fear of strong arm of Gov't decrees forcing them to decide between you and raising their children, the way our US constitution has granted families for almost 250 yrs.! Thank you for reading this. I'm more than happy to elaborate & expand on any of this testimony, John Owen
Debby Blobaum Against themselves	thank you for this opportunity to speak. I'm a 63 grandmother of a 14& 11 grandson Because of the love of my boys I'm here I can't be silent no more. my grandsons we at school and there mother brought Chick-fil-A to lunch to celebrate a birthday and children made fun of them and bullied them because this place don't except LGBT groups the teacher or principal would do anything about the bullied. They found a school that now the sore in academic.Why should we as parents should trust you

	know more to parents our children. I trust my dr with our daughter and they said she should get the Hpv vaccine and she spent 15 years fighting pre cancer she finally free but with the loss of most of her cervix. we trusted you with vaccine and food both out grandsons have autism. now polis has set up a sex ed camp for children. If this is who he is he will stand before God. you have no right to groom children in to something you think they should be. God made the perfect in his eye and made them to have great purpose . This camp should be invade by FBI and charger with child abuse even the parents that take them to this event I vote no for my grandsons
Oliver Willson For themselves	My name is Oliver, I chose this name for myself in 8th grade at the age of 13. I started using he/him pronouns at school and with friends. For me, school was the safest place. I felt so safe that I came out as Transgender there before I did with my own family- who I did come out to later that year. I am 25 now going on 26 and I have not once, not even for a single moment regretted my choices or actions. In fact, I am beyond grateful that not only did I understand who I was, but I was with people who were willing to trust me when I said, my name is Oliver. Despite the number of years that have passed since middle school and high school, I still remember what a difficult time it was in my life- but not because of my identity. No, it was difficult because of puberty, friends, my first boyfriends and ex boyfriends, art projects, grades, what color bow tie I wanted to wear for prom... I needn't worry about my identity, there was no threat of being discriminated against, or taken away from my loving family, of whether or not my clothes matched how I expressed myself, or that in year books I would be remembered as me, as Oliver, as a boy who was well known for his love of video games and art. No child should have to be afraid to be themselves, no child should be afraid that they will lose their parents if they chose to be true to themselves. Children should be focusing on learning and exploring the wonders of life —finding their hobbies, what makes them happy, making friends — not worried about whether or not they are safe, loved and accepted.
Ashlie Steele Against themselves	I am very disappointed with how this hearing has been handled. I ask for a no vote. I signed up immediately after this bill was assigned to committee. Testimony should go in order of when you signed up. I have been waiting on zoom since 1:30pm and was just told I will most likely not get to speak. The 8 hour limit is outrageous and a way to silence dissent. So much for "democracy" when you keep citizens from their ability to speak.
Erin Csoboth Against themselves	This bill infringes on parents' religious freedom to teach their children their beliefs about being made in the image of God and precious. This bill could send loving parents to jail. This is wrong to criminalize a parents' beliefs.

Karen Moeller Against themselves	This law will force every parent to lie to their child. This law will take the child away if the parents do not lie to their child. This law will force parents to tell their child is a girl when their child is a boy or vise versa. Laws do not suppose to threaten or use an act of force to abuse a victim into silence. Silence to what? Their true sex. I stand here before the court to all to understand that we as a people do not FORCE Parents, Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents and all people to be forced to lie. We ask for protection from this threat for ALL SOCIETY in ALL COLORADO to be forced by the government to lie. Karen Moeller of Jefferson County, Colorado. 20250430
Je Casady Against themselves	Hello Chair and Committee of Colorado, My name is Jennice Casady and I represent myself and many concerned parents of Colorado, and we are against HB25-1312. This committee represents the citizens of Colorado, and you took an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Proposed bill HB25-1312 is an unconstitutional bill that breaks the 1st Amendment because it stomps on the rights of a parent to "Speak" truth to their child, and protect their child from being physically harmed by transgender dismemberment surgery and hormone blockers, and takes away the right of a parent to call their child by their birth name and biological sex. This bill also breaks the 1st Amendment because the transgenderism-ideology-religion wants people to believe that people can be born in the wrong body, and as a Christian I know that God does not make mistakes, a person is never born in the wrong body. The Senate can't approve a bill that punishes parents, children, teachers, and business' because they disagree with the transgenderism-ideology-religion. As a Christian it is a SIN to LIE, and everyone knows that no one can ever truly be a different gender, therefore I will not lie about a person's gender. A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin. Proverbs 26:28 A person has to take hormones and drugs for rest of their life that are known to cause significant harmful side effects including shortening ones life span in order to fake a different gender. The UK government in December of 2024 banned the prescription of puberty blockers for children younger than 18 because of the harm it has caused to children, and because medical experts said it harms children.

	No bill should be used as a judicial weapon to push an ideological religion on people, and steal their Constitutional right to speak truth, and live according to their beliefs not the transgender religion beliefs. There are many Detransitioners like Chloe Cole that wish they had been told the truth and had been protected from a LIE that destroyed their once healthy body. The science shows that the hormone blockers are doing damage to kids' bodies mentally and physically. Children should receive help to deal with gender disphoria, so they can be comfortable in their healthy biological body. Parents speak truth to their children because they love them, and because they want to protect them, and it is wrong to call truth harassment or discrimination because truth is the opposite of that. As the representatives of Colorado, it is your duty to protect the Constitutional Rights of the Citizens of Colorado, and this proposed bill HB25-1312 breaks our Constitutional laws, therefore it is an unlawful bill that harms children, family, and all Colorado citizens. I urge a No vote, to this weaponized harmful bill Thank you for listening.
Nicholas Yaksich Against The Jesus Church of Colorado Springs	Thank you madame chair. My name is Nick Yaksich. I pastor and represent The Jesus Church of Colorado Springs. I am in the process of pursuing my PhD and writing my dissertation on Desire, Embodiment, and Transgenderism. I was actually there following the Club Q shooting. My church handed out hot chocolate, played music, prayed for people, and wept with those who wept...no matter their identification. There was no hate. We did not pretend like people didn't exist. We simply loved people like Jesus would have loved them. I have no personal vendetta against any transgender individual. I would like to thank you for removing those certain items from the bill...but let's not pretend that those initial inclusions are not the original intent and eventual full manifestation of a bill like this. The hand was revealed. You can remove stuff from a bill to make it more palatable but it revealed the eventual maturation of the bill. It will go too far. I have repeatedly heard how the mental health of transgender individuals is on the table with this bill and that deadnaming, if not legislated, will irrevocably harm people. But you cannot legislate mental health. Ever. This isn't solved in legislation. We also need to establish the fact that the results of affirming care, following a groundbreaking and broad 2024 study, revealed not a decrease but a 12-fold increase in suicide attempts. The co-sponsor claimed and many others claimed that the suicide rate is higher without affirmation but that is an outright lie and the data

	does not support her claim. In fact, there is no credible study showing a significant uptick in suicide rates for transgender individuals without gender affirming care. It's anecdotal not data-driven. I have pastored and currently pastor people who identify as transgender, have de-transitioned, and youth who have wrestling with their identity. I'm in the trenches and I can boldly state this legislation will not solve anything. I urge a "No" vote today on HB-1312.
Anton Babarykin Against himself	Hello, My name is Anton Babarykin and I am a parent of three young children. I strongly oppose this bill because it's aimed at stripping me and my wife of our right to choose what is best for our kids. I vote against this Bill targeting parent's rights. The government has no right to tell us how to raise our children. Unless there is actual abuse of children - please stay out of peoples homes! This bill is clearly targeted towards eliminating the traditional understanding of family structures - where parents have the prerogative and responsibility to care for their children and to help them navigate life. I voice my opposition against this bill! Please put this on record - I am against this bill. Thank you. Anton Babarykin
Meg Reed For himself	Trans people have always been a part of our human family, and at various times in history they have been respected and even revered. At other times, anyone who is different in some way (left-handed, dark skinned, neurodivergent, nonbinary) has been subjected to discrimination, usually by creating a culture of fear, such as possession by demons or nowadays by promoting the entirely false narrative that trans folks are sexual predators or groomers. The fact is trans folks are far more likely to be victims of assault than cisgender people, and I guarantee that we have all shared restrooms with trans people with absolutely no adverse effect. It is past time that we look at facts and call out the fearmongering. Every major professional group recognizes the value in providing gender-affirming care: the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychiatric Association, etc. Trans folks deserve the same respectful treatment as anyone else. We would be appropriately horrified if a teacher or a boss made fun of a disabled student or employee of color. We should be equally horrified if that teacher or employer refused to show the basic decency of using a person's preferred name. Simple respect! You don't have to agree with a person's choices, but you don't get to make their lives more difficult because you disagree. Likewise, parents who disagree about providing gender-affirming care must consider the child's best interest, as they should with any other matter, putting emotions aside and recognizing the facts, not fears. Trans kids who are well-supported by parents, schools, and peers have demonstrably better mental health than those who are subjected to disapproval and

	rejection. We should all be able to agree that that's a worthy goal. Please support HB25-1312. Thank you.
Sabrina Scherma For themselves	As a transgender individual in the state, I ask that people consider the reality of life as a trans person. Protections from the state recognizing our civil liberties and right to exist as equals in society directly impact my life, and the lives of my siblings across the state. Please recognize our humanity and act from a place of empathy as you vote on this bill.
Rebecca Ekx Against themselves	I strongly urge Governor Polis to oppose the proposed bill HB25-1312, Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals. This bill discriminates against parents who do not support the transgender movement. Bill HB25-1312 boldly pronouncing that the state is more competent than the parents when it comes to children struggling with gender dysphoria and attempts to remove, isolate, and destroy the family foundation by removing children from their parents during an extremely tenuous time in the child's development. By authorizing the courts the ability to remove children from their parents who do not abide by the transgender ideology and who do not support the capricious whims of adolescence, the government is taking the rights away from parents who know their children the best and are best able to determine how to care for their children because they do not carry the same beliefs as the progressive left currently governing this state. The State is essentially telling its constituents that they cannot disagree with the transgender movement or LGBTQ ideologies and if they do their children will be removed from their custody. The State is telling its constituents that it knows better how to care for their children and will not hesitate to take away their God-given rights as parents if they do not support and comply with differing beliefs. We are being told we do not have the freedoms of speech and religion the Constitution affords us and we are free and independent to have our own opinions without persecution and punishment. Where will those children go who have been removed from their parents' custody? Into the foster system. We have already seen the effects of an overburdened foster care system and we have seen many instances of neglect and abuse from foster parents. It is not the responsibility of the foster parents to reinforce the confusion of a child suffering from gender dysphoria or any other mental health issues. The child will only suffer more mental and emotional distress without the natural support system of the family structure and people who love and care for their well-being. Foster parents and the State government do not love and care for the children of this state as do their parents. I am deeply saddened that this bill has made it this far and I appeal to your conscience to put yourself in the place of these parents. Consider how you would personally feel if a state government were to tell you you couldn't have differing beliefs from the governing majority and if you did you would be persecuted, punished, and your children would be stripped from your home and your custody because you wouldn't adhere to the confused beliefs of your child thus making it impossible for you to pursue further medical attention or treatment to help your child. Children are not objects to be used and manipulated as pawns in a political game. They are human beings with dignity and rights.
Rebecca Zimmerman For	Hi, my name is Rebecca Zimmerman – she/her. I live in Denver, I am an MSW and social work scholar and professor at DU currently writing a dissertation related to violence against women and children.

themselves	Opponents of this bill claim that they are trying to protect children and “parents rights”. This claim sounds good but is NOT supported by the literature. I’ve worked extensively in the field of violence against women and children. I’m the mother of two young daughters whose safety is by far my most important job, I take statistics on child maltreatment very seriously. And the research unequivocally shows that heterosexual, cisgendered men are far away the most likely group to abuse children. Statistically, transgender folks aren’t even on the radar. The Zero Abuse Project states that “Abuse is about power and control and is not anchored by sexual orientation.” So if not the LGBTQ community as claimed, who IS the most likely person in a child’s life to abuse them? HHS data shows that 76% of abuse is perpetrated by the child’s parent. In addition, patriarchal views—including transphobia, homophobia, and sexist gender roles are highly correlated to increased child and spousal abuse. Opponents of this bill appeal to the idea of so-called parents’ rights. Parents do not have a right to abuse. They should not have a right to deny children the proper education needed to function in modern society. They do not have a right to bully children who do not fit into their narrow authoritarian worldview. And they certainly should not be able to isolate children from protective adults such as teachers who can intervene in that 76% of child abuse that occurs IN THE HOME. Innocent trans and nonbinary people are being slandered and turned in boogeymen by bad actors to distract from the factual truth about who and what causes the most harm to children. Colorado, we’re better than this. Please vote yes on this bill.
Crystal Whitt Against themselves	Dear Senators, HB25-1312, Legal Protections for Transgenders, criminalizes parents for calling their child by their birth name if their child wishes to be called by a different name because of confusion about their sex. This bill violates our religious liberty to teach our children (by calling them their birth name) that God created them beautifully and unchangeably in His image as either male or female (Genesis 1:7). It also violates our first amendment rights of free speech and compels us to say things we don’t agree with (E.g. “chosen name” vs. birth name). This bill also prohibits public, and charter schools from using school dress codes that are based on gender. Incredibly, it places the definitions of “misgendering” and “deadnaming” into the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. Free speech is taken away by requiring adults and businesses to use someone’s “chosen name” or pronouns in public places of accommodation. HB25-1312 criminalizes parents, violates religious freedom and parental rights! Please vote NO on this bad bill.

	Sincerely, Crystal Whitt
Sophia M For themselves	I came in person tonight and have listened to all of the testimony. The opposition to this bill is rooted in hatred , fear, and ignorance. Period. Those feelings are not divine either. A lot of complaining about parental rights. The right to what? The right to beat the gay out of your kid? To tell them who to love and what to look like? Please. Do the right thing. Protect these kids. They are DEPENDING on you. There was not a SINGLE trans person in opposition to this bill. That tells you everything you need to know.
Sammy Smith For themselves	passing this bill is essential for protecting the rights of people in this state. with a president who is ignoring medical experts and destroying bodily autonomy, it is incredibly important to have state protections for trans people. this bill will put protections in place for trans children. keeping them safe from bullying and discrimination. being purposely misgendered and deadnamed is abusive behavior and we need these protections. this is how you protect children. i know, i was one of them.
Brian Ekx Against themselves	I strongly urge Governor Polis to oppose the proposed bill HB25-1312, Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals. This bill discriminates against parents who do not support the transgender movement. Bill HB25-1312 boldly pronouncing that the state is more competent than the parents when it comes to children struggling with gender dysphoria and attempts to remove, isolate, and destroy the family foundation by removing children from their parents during an extremely tenuous time in the child's development. By authorizing the courts the ability to remove children from their parents who do not abide by the transgender ideology and who do not support the capricious whims of adolescence, the government is taking the rights away from parents because they do not carry the same beliefs as the progressive left currently governing this state. The State is essentially telling its constituents that they cannot disagree with the transgender movement or LGBTQ ideologies and if they do their children will be removed from their custody. The State is telling its constituents that it knows better how to care for their children and will not hesitate to take away their God-given rights as parents if they do not support and comply with differing beliefs. We are being told we do not have the freedoms of speech and religion the Constitution affords us and we are free and independent to have our own opinions without persecution and punishment. Where will those children go who have been removed from their parents' custody? Into the foster system. We have already seen the effects of an overburdened foster care system and

	we have seen many instances of neglect and abuse from foster parents. It is not the responsibility of the foster parents to reinforce the confusion of a child suffering from gender dysphoria or any other mental health issues. The child will only suffer more mental and emotional distress without the natural support system of the family structure and people who love and care for their well-being. Foster parents and the State government do not love and care for the children of this state as do their parents. I am deeply saddened that this bill has made it this far and I appeal to your conscience to put yourself in the place of these parents. Consider how you would personally feel if a state government were to tell you you couldn't have differing beliefs from the governing majority and if you did you would be persecuted, punished, and your children would be stripped from your home and your custody because you wouldn't adhere to the confused beliefs of your child thus making it impossible for you to pursue further medical attention or treatment to help your child. Children are not objects to be used and manipulated as a pawns in a political game. They are human beings with dignity and rights.
Janice Strickler Against themselves	Il urge you to vote NO on HB 25-1412. Free states do not punish people for speaking biological truth. It silences me from public debate, and to comply with state government mandate! VOTE NO ON HB25-1312
Diana Franklin Against themselves	Dear Senate Judiciary Committee, Please vote NO HB25-1312, Parents have the right to raise their children, to name them, and to refer to them by their biological sex. Once a child is over 18, they have the right to move out, to change their name and to request that their parents use different pronouns when referring to them. Until that time, parents reserve the right to care for their child and form them according to their role as the primary care givers and educators of their children. For children experiencing gender dysphoria, some parents will discern that it is best for their child to change their name or pronouns and they can follow whatever course of medical or psychological treatment they feel is best. For other parents, they will discern that affirming their child's given, biological gender is the right course. These parents will choose to continue using their child's given name and pronouns. There is not a single person on the planet, better positioned to know what is right for the child other than the parent(s). Parents have known and raised their children from birth, they know the ups and downs of daily life, the context of the family and school/peer-situation, and all of the other factors contributing to their child's situation. Society, recognizing the developmental needs of children, has for centuries now, acknowledged that parents need to be the primary source of guidance and decision making in the lives of children under 18. Do not undermine this traditional wisdom. When I was growing up the gender dysphoria manifested often in girls my age with body image issues and eating disorders. Every adult in the life of those girls affirmed to them the value and worth of their given bodies and surrounded them with support to overcome their disorder. If their parents had been ordered to call them "fat" and to indulge their disordered eating habits many of them could have had life-long health issues and/or possibly died. Please keep these common sense items in mind as you vote today.

Rita Widmann Against themselves	The reason we are living through a constitutional crisis is that we have allowed people to weaken our honoring of the Christian roots of our Nation and we are now claiming our Christian form of government to be recognized again and strengthen. Founding father, John Adams told us that the constitution was only written for a moral religious people and is wholly inadequate for any other. This bill 25-HB1312 is unconstitutional and against Jesus Christ's message of salvation. Transgender people have no tools to know the truth that would set them free, because they do not know the word of God. If they cast down their thoughts that lie to them and bring into their thinking the truth that they are made in the image and likeness of God, male and female then they will start winning the battle over delusion. If they would reject refuse and not accept any thoughts that are contrary to God's truth then they would get free of the delusion, lies and fantasy that is attacking them. They need healing from complex trauma and other wounds and God is the Healer to run to . By choosing an alternative reality then they become god of their own being, void of a moral compass, and God's commandments, Do not pass this bill which will destroy the family and free speech and religious freedom.
Josh Epstein Against themselves	Good evening, My name is Josh Epstein and I am the pastor of Castle Rock Community Church in Castle Rock Colorado. I am adamantly opposed to this bill and urge you as representatives of the citizens of this state who have testified in overwhelming numbers this evening. For reasons pertaining to all of the testimony against this bill which has already been shared, and what I have detailed below, I must state that I and the people I serve will never comply with an attempt to control the free exercise of our deeply held religious beliefs to serve the Lord Almighty. Children are a blessing, a heritage from the the Lord. As such, we believe, as Bible believing Christians that we have a duty to protect the lives of children entrusted to our care.

	Parents are the guardian authority by precedent in every other area of life that can be observed with children. Minors are not even allowed to attend R rated movies without the presence of a parent or legal guardian. Why is this? It is because we know that minds of Minors are impressionable and the things that are seen in these films are not something that a developing mind has the ability to process properly when it comes to trauma, sexuality and violence. Minors are not permitted to buy alcohol or tobacco products. Why not? Because we know that the abuse of these products can cause adverse effects in the lives of developing minds as well. Additionally, we don't try children as adults in the legal system. They are tried as minors, with far more liberal punishments under the law because the judicial system has recognized that the choices children make in life are often not rooted in mature thinking. Are we going to move to try children as adults and have them serve time in General Population prisons? I think not. How much more so do we need to understand that children need to be shepherded by parents who have their best interests in mind. This authority does not rest with the state. One final argument: in 1940 the united states passed the Bald and Golden Eagle protection act to ensure that the rights of birds are protected to have a family. If caught in violation of this law, individuals can be fined up to 100,000 dollars and face jail time. This can be the result of disturbing the nesting locations of a bald eagle family, disrupting mating and breeding, and of course destruction of eagle eggs. If we are protecting families of birds to raise their children the way that God has made them, how much more so the lives of actual people. There is an odd exception to this act that protects eagles. If you are a native American engaged in a religious ceremony that requires eagle feathers etc. they can apply for a special permit to break this law all in the name of the free exercise of religion. Why do we do this? Because the United States was founded on the protection of religious freedoms and the free exercise thereof.

	Consequently, if we are protecting Native American religious rights to infringe upon the rights on endangered species, it only logically follows that you must uphold the rights of citizens to practice their deeply held religious beliefs as well. I charge you, in the name of the LORD of Hosts, that you vote in such a way that shows your understanding that you will one day give account for every careless word and deed done in the name if social tolerance. This bill is a mockery of the Judeao Christian one true God. You will not only be fighting devoted believers if this passes but the God of Heaven and Earth as well. Thank you Pastor Josh Epstein
Heidi Mitchell Against themselves	Hello there, my name is Heidi Mitchell, and I'm a Colorado mother who has lived the issues at the heart of House Bill 25-1312. Between the ages of 14 and 16, my oldest daughter experienced a number of concerning mental health challenges and—for a time—used a different name and pronouns to assert that she was not female. My husband and I responded with what many clinicians call a watch-and-wait approach: we worked hard to build a stronger and even more loving relationship with her, found an excellent therapist, and addressed the broader mental-health needs that were at the root of her distress. Today, at 18, she is thriving, happier and comfortable in her female body. When discussing this bill with her she said, "I'm very glad you did what you did." Her story shows that patient, evidence-based care can help a teen resolve gender distress without irreversible medical or even social steps towards a specific outcome. I appreciate the amendments, but believe that HB 25-1312 still tips the legal scales against that cautious path we took: Section 3 creates a sanctuary for one parent to pursue medical transition even when another parent—or an out-of-state court—believes a slower, holistic approach is best. Sections 4 and 7 compel schools and state agencies to treat any chosen name as legally binding, with no requirement to notify or involve parents. That could still be seen as compelled speech and a direct intrusion into the parent-child relationship. The bill explicitly protects families that affirm immediate social and/or medical transition yet offers no protection to families like mine who choose to pause, evaluate, and treat underlying issues first. Colorado should not codify one "correct" response to a child's identity questions when reputable studies and scientific reviews, including last year's independent Cass Review in the U.K., show that most gender-

	distressed teens eventually reconsider once mental-health needs are met or children are left alone to grow up without social transition. Parents must remain free to guide their children—lovingly, thoughtfully, and without fear that the state will brand parental caution as potential discrimination. For my daughter's sake and for countless Colorado families navigating these complex questions, I respectfully urge you to vote "No" on HB 25-1312. Thank you for your time.
Nyk Lifson For themselves	I am representing myself and my close friend Lauren. I am a resident of Adams county and have worked as a first responder for 5 years. Lauren lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am transgender. She is cisgender. I know hundreds of trans and gender expansive folks personally. Lauren is the only person I know who detransitioned. I ask her last week about her journey. In college, she was able to socially transition through peer and academic support. Changing her transcripts, public name, pronouns, cutting her hair, and binding her chest. She is grateful she got to explore being gender-fluid. It has solidified her womanhood today. She is completely in support of this act and so am I. This will protect and support trans folks ability to transition socially. Which always comes before any medical decisions are made.
Kyle Lester For themselves	I represent myself as a citizen of Colorado, as a parent, and as a supporter of the rights of queer and trans people. When my child was a year old, I went through a contentious separation which involved their mother attempting to leave Colorado and take our child with her. The possibility that the case would end up out of state hung over me, and while it was under consideration, I was in a constant state of anxiety and fear that I wouldn't be a part of my child's life. Thankfully our case ended with a settlement and full parenting rights for both myself and our child's mother. Situations around separation and custody are emotionally charged, and it is easy for these emotions to cloud parents' judgment. It is critical that the safety, wellbeing, and best interest of any impacted children are kept at the forefront, and that regressive laws in other states cannot be weaponized against parents for recognizing their child's identity. In the current climate, the protections provided by this bill are vital. If we allow such weaponization, the people that suffer most are children who are caught in the middle. Regardless of what happens as my child grows up, I will continue to support them and affirm them, ensuring that they are safe as they go through the many changes and challenges that come. I believe we should live in a society that supports such growth and affirmation rather than repressing and silencing trans youth and adults. Children should be able to tell their own stories, not have words put in their mouths. And trans people of all ages deserve safety, freedom from harassment, equal

	opportunities for employment and housing, and the right to exist as themselves in public. I believe this bill is good for children, for parents, for our trans and nonbinary and gender nonconforming community members, and by extension for our communities as a whole. Please vote yes on the Kelly Loving Act and thank you for your time.
Danielle Yanke For themselves	Good evening Madam Chair and committee. My name is Danielle Yanke and I'm pleased to have this opportunity to speak to you all. I'm representing myself as a trans woman, and like my loved ones and peers, I too know the importance of the Kelly Loving Act. When I was young, I had no agency or say on being the person I am. I grew up in a family that was hostile to those who were different. My dad was a military man who loved control. I was forced to cut my hair short like his, to only wear clothes he wanted me to, and I was groomed into a military lifestyle by not only him but my family at large. I never had a voice growing up. When I became an adult, I joined the US Army like him. I thought the emotions of discomfort I felt so strongly were just typical teenage things. Except they lingered and grew. No matter how much I tried to grow out of it and become "a man" I still felt lost and isolated. I was never in control of my own body. I didn't know how I could continue living, especially during my military career. I discharged honorably and moved far away from my family for college. Three years ago, I finally accepted myself as who I am with the help, knowledge, and support of my peers. I've never been happier but I've also never felt so vulnerable. Even as I stand here as a 30 year old trans woman, I know how terrifying it is to be a transgender child. I have escaped the grasp of my controlling family, but I still see and feel the scars of the many years of trauma and conditioning. I had no say for who I was for so long and I have struggled so hard to find any self worth in myself until recently. My family has since abandoned me. They won't try to understand, they don't want to. My very existence is political to them. I have sacrificed my livelihood and wellbeing for their comfort for so long. No more. Protecting transgender youth is everything. It gives them the knowledge, power, and support to move forward as their authentic self. We all deserve the respect as humans, to be seen and heard as the person we know we are. Children are our most vulnerable, they are our future, and they deserve that respect too. Afterall, no one can ever know you better than yourself and that especially goes for our trans youth. Please vote yes on the Kelly Loving Act. Thank you.

Anthony Raposa Against themselves	I hereby do NOT consent to this harmful bill. The suicide rates speak for themselves if a child cannot get a tattoo or buy an alcoholic beverage or cigarettes they most certainly should not be able to decide on their own what gender they are. Those privileges lie strictly with the parents and parents alone the government, state, and school institutions have no authority or right whatsoever to enforce or encourage this bill. I think I speak for many parents everywhere who are against this bill who feel that their rights as the parents are being stripped away and their children are being taken advantage of by a community that doesn't have their best interests or health at heart. Simply put, they are not of age to make permanent life altering decisions for themselves. The body itself is evident enough to how their child should identify. Anything else in my opinion is considered gender dysphoria, which I feel is a mental illness and should not be encouraged or enforced onto our children.
Alfiya Moore Against themselves	My name is Alfiya Moore. I am speaking for myself and I am testifying against HB-25-1312. Since early childhood I believed I was a mistake of the nature and had to be a boy instead of a girl. I grew up keeping in secret my feelings, though I behaved as a tomboy preferring wearing boy's clothes and playing male roles. Studying Biology in high school I learned that sex determined at conception. I wasn't happy with this discovery and was confused why I didn't feel myself as a girl. When I went to medical school I learned for the first time about transgenders, gays and lesbians and found out it was not something knew. I decided to keep my biological sex, but I lived lesbian lifestyle. At age of 29 I meet Jesus Christ and accepted Him as my Lord and Savior. I suddenly understood identifying myself as a man was a wrong believe not the truth. Right away I changed my mind and came to agreement with my body and biological sex. The change was so smooth and painless, I am still amazed by this fact. I thank my God and Creator who never makes mistakes. Now I am happily married woman. I believe HB-25-1312 is harmful for children and parents. Let children to grow and find their real identity in Christ Jesus. I petition to vote against HB-25-1312, please.
Regina Eslick Against themselves	4/30/2025 Thank you, Members of the Senate Judiciary: My name is Regina Eslick. I am a born-again Christian, social worker, a home-educator, and mother. I am representing myself. I vehemently OPPOSE HB25-1312. European Marxism, in a very brief nutshell, relied on the lie that the middle class oppresses the poverty class because of capitalism. There needed to be the ruling class so that the middle class would be gone with the goal of establishing a classless society. In 1989, the Berlin wall fell and so did the large-scale known influence of Marxism. However, the Marxist ideology didn't go away; it shifted. Now it exists as Critical Race Theory and Gender Ideology. The ultimate goal of Marxism is social equality and a classless, raceless, now genderless society. But, here's the truth. Everywhere that Marxist ideas have taken root has led to socialism, communism, and decline. Additionally, utopia will not exist this side of Heaven. However, the Constitution was written "in order to form a more perfect union", understanding that

	it would never be actually perfect. When the colonies agreed that God exists, God is the Creator of everything we know, and self-government was the primary means of behavior regulation, those colonies were able to pull together to do some pretty amazing things. We're only in this mess because most people have forgotten God as Creator and Father and there is largely no discipline or self-government evident. Children need their parents to guide them. Children need to be told no. This Colorado government needs to be told no -and there is an overwhelming amount of people who are voicing their opposition to this egregious bill. We will not bow to these pagan gods. I urge you to vote NO on this bill. Thank you for your time.
Sandi Ashley Against themselves	Hello Senate Committee, I wanted to express my concerns about the proposed bill allowing children to undergo gender-altering surgical procedures. My perspective is bipartisan and not judgmental, and I share my story with no personal gain. Growing up in Oklahoma, I faced emotional trauma and abandonment. As a teenager, I was pressured into a breast reduction surgery by my trusted parent/stepmother, which led to long-term consequences, including the inability to breastfeed my children. I was not equipped to make such a life-altering decision as a child, although my parent believed they were doing the right thing in supporting me. A surgical procedure can have irreversible consequences, including potential loss of fertility. If one of my 5 children wanted to undergo gender-altering surgery, I would seek counseling to ensure they felt emotionally supported and encourage them to wait until adulthood. Under this bill, I could lose custody for trying to protect my child. Additionally, a parent might feel they are supporting their child by encouraging gender-altering surgery and gender-blocking medications, but thoughts important as a child can drastically vary from those in adulthood. I am a living example of my these choices haunting my adulthood. I urge you not to pass this bill. Children need to be children, and parents should support them without fear of losing custody. Surgical alterations should wait until they are 18. I am here because I wish someone had been there to speak on my behalf and forced me to wait until I was 18 to make such a monumental and permanent decision. Thank you for considering my perspective. Best regards,

	Sandi Ashley
Dale Strickler Against themselves	Free states DO NOT PUNISH ITS PEOPLE for speaking BIOLOGICAL TRUTH!! VOTE NO ON HB25-1312
Birch Cue For First Universalist Church of Denver	Good evening Madam Chair and committee members. My name is Birch Cue, and my pronouns are they, them, and theirs. I am here as a minister of First Universalist Church of Denver. This bill matters to me as a trans person who ministers to trans people. I am here to urge your support of House Bill 1312. If passed, this bill will give Coloradans one more line of defense from abuse and harassment. One more chance for our children to grow up in loving, supportive communities. One more chance for every person in our state to thrive. This bill will further our state's work to ensure everyone is treated with the dignity we each have and deserve as human beings. In the time I have served my church, I have heard from countless people how grateful they are for a community that affirms the dignity of transgender people. I hear this not just from my fellow trans people, but also their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors. It matters that we have communities that affirm our dignity. It matters that we live in a state that affirms our dignity. This work is a holy tenet of our faith. I call on you to support this bill that has dignity baked into it. As an ethical person and your constituent, I ask you to do the just thing and support this bill. Thank you all for your consideration today.
Brad Bruce For themselves	Good evening madame chairman and members of the committee and thank you for hearing testimony this evening. My name is Brad Bruce and I am representing myself. I am a resident of Lakewood, a cisgender man and I am here to speak enthusiastically in favor of HB25-1312 - The Kelly Loving Act. Trans people are some of the most vulnerable, marginalized, and attacked group of people in this country today. All across the United States, trans people are being systematically denied healthcare, they are having their rights stripped and are being forced to use pronouns and names that they no longer identify with on government documents including passports issued by the current administration. With all of that being said, the least thing, the absolute least thing, that this state government can do is the things that the Kelly Loving Act would do.

	Things like defining deadnaming, misgendering, and chosen name for purposes of the Colorado Anti Discrimination Act. These are policies that that lead with empathy and compassion and update our laws to match Trans people and children deserve the same respect, dignity, and legal protections that are provided to cisgender people like myself. At a time when the federal government and many states and local governments around the country continue to demonize trans people and blame them for all of the world's problems, it is critical that this state steps up and protects the freedoms and rights for trans people. Please vote in favor of HB25-1312.
Rachael Eslick Against themselves	4/30/2025 Thank you, Members of the Senate Judiciary: My name is Rachael Eslick. I am 8 years old and representing myself. I do not agree with HB25-1312. I like to play pretend with my friends and we often play "animals." I like to wear my wolf-ears from Great Wolf Lodge, and I like to use a jump-rope as a leash to guide my friend as a dog. But we know we are playing pretend because we are kids, and we are allowed to be silly. Sometimes I wear my big brother's clothes, or I put on my dad's uniform. This doesn't mean that I want to be a boy. God doesn't make mistakes, and He made each of us in His image. I think it's sad that there are kids who think they are made wrong, and I think it's really sad that they might be taken from their parents if their parents help them understand that they are made just the way God made them. God has given each of us children's our parents the job to raise us, and each family is different. I need to be told "no" a lot; that's how I learn! The government should not have a say about what goes on inside each of our homes. I urge you to vote NO on this bill! It's bad for kids and families. Thank you for your time.
Jonas Anderson For themselves	Good evening, My name is Jonas Anderson, and I'm a student at Pikes Peak State College, studying Environmental Sustainability. I am also a transgender Coloradan. I am here today, as

	a student and professional who has faced the kind of discrimination this bill defines, and to voice my support for HB25-1312, the Kelly Loving Bill of Rights. This bill is not about special treatment. It's about making sure transgender people, like anyone else, can go to school, seek medical care, and show up in court without being mistreated or misidentified. For most of us, it's not about politics. It's about being able to live our lives, focus on school or work, and participate in our communities without constant fear or friction. It is about ensuring that public institutions in Colorado treat people with consistency, dignity, and basic respect. As a student, I've seen firsthand how easy it is for something as simple as a name mismatch to become a source of humiliation. HB25-1312 sets clearer standards for schools and institutions to respect chosen names, use inclusive language, and treat all students with dignity, while still allowing flexibility where legal names are necessary. It doesn't force anyone to change their beliefs — it simply helps public institutions create environments where students like me can succeed. This legislation is important for the Colorado parents who affirm their child's identity as well. It's a reminder that Colorado respects family autonomy and the right to care for children in consultation with doctors, not distant lawmakers from other states. These are values I believe Coloradans across the political spectrum can support. Although the last minute amendments are disappointing, I still believe this bill helps reduce confusion, prevents needless harm, and brings clarity to how our public systems handle gender identity. It does so without infringing on anyone's personal beliefs — only asking that our institutions operate with professionalism and respect. I respectfully urge you to support HB25-1312. It's a measured, practical step toward making Colorado a place where everyone, including young people like me, can focus on contributing to our beloved state. Thank you for your consideration.
Asa Farrer For themselves	I'd like to urge the body to pass this bill and offer much needed protections to transgender individuals, a demographic that has come under continued attack throughout the United States. In nearly every state in the US, as well as at the federal level, politicians and lawmakers are pushing the narrative that trans people simply existing are somehow an existential threat to our society. This continued scapegoating of trans people has created an atmosphere where the safety and well being of our trans friends and neighbors is frequently called into question.

	According to the American Civil Liberties Union, there have been 575 anti-LGBTQ bills introduced throughout the country in the 2025 Legislative session alone. Along with that, Donald Trump has signed numerous executive orders taking aim at trans rights. Considering this state of malicious politics throughout the US, it is imperative that individual states step in and protect their own constituents. Protections like those defined in the bill would demonstrate that Colorado is moving in the correct direction of valuing the well-being of people of all gender identities. The primary topic of this bill is deadnaming. I can think of no more basic form of respect than simply calling a person by the name they wish to be called. However, it is the unfortunate reality that many individuals believe that trans people are NOT deserving of even that slight modicum of respect. The blatant disrespect displayed by continual deadnaming, especially when done by those close to you or in power over you, does undeniable psychological harm. I urge you to vote yes on this bill and demonstrate that Colorado is a state where we do respect transgender and gender non conforming individuals. As well as a state that pushes back against violence and threats from the federal government when it targets our friends and neighbors here in Colorado.
Shaydan Hessner For themselves	Hello madam chair, and members of the committee My name is Shaydan Hessner and I'm here as an individual to represent for myself and speak to my community Though my views are my own I find broadly that many of the arguments Against establishing rights and protections For trans people Hinge around a certain idea That we are liars That we don't need those protections Not that we don't face hatred and discrimination But because we're lying when we say who we are And that if we were to let go of those lies None of those protections are necessary

	Well I for one Have certainly have lied about who I am before I lied to myself about who I truly was for nearly two decades And during those decades I felt so hollow and so miserable... That I came seconds away from taking my own life Several times It's a type of suffering I would wish On no-one I'm lucky to be alive today To have found my truth And I owe that to my community The transgender community The only community that has ever accepted who I am without dismissing the pain and the anger and the fear I've felt throughout my life is fighting here today for their right to be heard and respected To me that's what the Kelly Loving act is; A call for the people I love and respect To be respected The tangible protections of this act

	Are indeed sorely needed But this bill says something broader And equally as important This bill shows that trans people Who have suffered and fought Just to be seen and heard Have earned that voice That we will be seen and respected Just like anyone because everyone deserves to be seen and respected
	But no one I've ever met Is MORE deserving of that respect Than the people I'm proud to be standing by here today They've saved me from suicide I owe more for that than I could ever repay Help me pay it forward instead Help me protect the voices of those that saved me
	I urge you to pass the Kelly Loving act without further capitulating amendments We need to show this state this country and the world that the trans community Has earned that respect
Lesley Gallegos Against themselves	Hello, I am extremely opposed to this bill. I certainly would never want my young son to date someone stating they are a female and find out they are actually a male!! Can you imagine the horror, disgust and devastation?! There is a reason why our God created two genders, and there's a reason why He created us as the gender that we

	are!! I pray that God will put on your hearts that this is against all biblical teachings, and that this bill will never be passed!! Thank you very much for your time!!
Travis Eslick Against themselves	April 30, 2025 Thank you, Members of the Senate Judiciary: My name is Travis Eslick and I'm representing myself. I oppose HB25-1312. There is a lot of talk about harassment in the workplace due to deadnaming or misgendering. There are legal ways to change names; why not take that route? There are already workplace harassment and anti-discrimination laws in place. Things need to be done legally, not on a whim. This bill is dangerous to the laws that already exist. My 1st amendment constitutional right to freedom of religion and speech doesn't end when others' feelings get hurt. Government needs to know its place; it is not regulating what goes on inside individual homes. This bill seeks to worship the pagan god of sex through child sacrifice. We will not bow. The government does not have the best interest of children in mind. It is not the place of the government to raise children. It is the parents' responsibility. I hope that you see if this bill passes, you will face continued opposition. We will not bow. I strongly urge you to vote NO on this bill. Thank you for your time.
Jeffrey Young For themselves	Good evening, My name is Jeff Young, and I represent myself as a citizen and resident of Colorado. I have a transgender friend named Margaret. Margaret is currently going through an acrimonious divorce wherein her spouse has deadnamed her, misgendered her, and threatened to use her trans identity as a weapon in denying her time with her children. This bill's protections are not abstract; they are for real situations and real people. Hopefully by now we know what this bill's provisions entail. In my eyes, what this bill's protections will begin to create is an environment in which all children will grow up to not see transgender people as less, but as equals, and it will create a generation that eschews the violence that is currently rampant throughout our society towards trans people. Indeed, it is the creation of this environment and the eschewing of that very violence that opponents of this bill are so angry about, as they see any limitations of their so-called "freedom" to enact violence upon trans people as a threat..

	Margaret, by virtue of being trans, is at 2-3 times the risk of intimate partner violence than a cisgendered person. The higher end of that risk is sexual violence, but she is also 2 times more likely to experience physical violence than a cis gendered person. The researchers who found this consider these estimates to be conservative compared to the true risk of intimate partner violence for trans people in this country. This data was published in a systematic review in 2020 in the American Journal of Public Health, a peer-reviewed publication (https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2020.305774) My point in bringing these numbers up is to show that not only science, but also public health and common decency require us to act. This bill is a strong start in ending the cycles of violence that perpetuate throughout the trans community as a result of largely cisgendered intolerance and discrimination. By giving adults and children the ability to express themselves without fear of losing rights and privileges in both legal and educational settings, we set the stage for a world where trans people are not hurt physically, emotionally, or socially, by their inherent and unchangeable identity. My friend Margaret is twice as likely to experience physical violence from her spouse, and a full one-fifth of transgender homicides are perpetuated by intimate partners. Her risk of violence and death, and the risk of hundreds of thousands of other transgender individuals in the United States alone, can be mitigated by good legislation. I urge this committee to vote yes in honor of those who have already fallen at the hands of anti-trans violence and cleanse ourselves of the blood that will be on our hands should we fail to act. And on a personal note, as a religious man, I will say that if my ticket to hell is bought with kindness and caring for transgender individuals, then I will pay my fare in full. Thank you.
Sara Davis Against themselves	To the Committee, I am urging you as a Colorado citizen and a mother to vote no on this bill. As the mother of two teenagers I have an upfront view into the difficulties that children face as they grow up and learn to live in the world around them. The most stable environment for a child (including teenagers!) is with their parents. This bill is a radical and reckless attempt to deny parents the right to parent their children, provide guidance and make important medical decisions. "Child Abuse" is for physical harm towards a child, the re-dining of child abuse to include a parents ability to call their child by their given name is dangerous for children and incredibly harmful to society. Children are just that, children. They need the wisdom, guidance, and direction of their parents and it is a parents obligation to protect their children from harm. Gender transitions are not safe for children and create massive consequences later in life. I urge you to leave medical decisions of minors to their parents for both the flourishing of Colorado children and society. Sincerely, Sara Davis
Jamie Anderson For themselves	I signed up to give this testimony over zoom but after listening for 8 hours, I was never called. (I understand there is a time limit.) However, I believe my testimony touches on a point that none of the other bill proponents have expressed, which is

	pointing out the actual findings of the Cass Review, something that many opponents have referenced and not been questioned about. Here is what I planned to say: My name is Jamie Anderson, I use they or she pronouns. I am representing myself. I fully support the Kelly Loving Act. I was born and raised in Colorado and feel strongly that our state is a place where the rights of the individual - regardless of their age - are respected, and also that we should continue to make ourselves a sanctuary for people who are unsafe in other states. This means that I fully support this bill, which advocates for the rights of trans youth. Our country is in many ways anti-child, with very few protections for youth. Many of the arguments against this bill amount to parents acting as if they own their children, not that their children are individuals with rights themselves. Colorado, with its strong tradition of human rights, should be proud to bring forward a bill that protects the rights of all its people - not just those over the age of eighteen or twenty-one. We all know that parents, no matter how well meaning, do not have all the answers and that our personal biases can influence how we parent, and damage our children in ways we never meant to. Despite much of the testimony you have heard today, this is also not a widespread issue. For example, multiple people speaking against the bill have referenced the Cass Review, which the United Kingdom government is currently using to strip trans individuals of their right to health care. However, the findings of the Cass Review don't actually report what you're hearing from the people speaking against this bill. The Cass Review ultimately surveyed 3499 patients between the ages of 12 and 17 who sought gender affirming care from the National Health Service over a period of several years. Of those, just 27% received referrals for hormonal treatment. That amounts to around 900 people total. Of the entire survey of over 3000 people who sought gender affirming care as youth, under 10 people - not 10 percent, 10 people total - detransitioned. That's less than 0.003%. That suggests to me that the vast vast majority of youth who sought gender affirming care are, in fact, trans. Colorado should respect trans youth as individuals who understand themselves, and who have rights to be respected. I also want to say how beautiful and inspiring I've found the testimony from the brave trans people who came here to advocate for the community.
Christine McCormack Against themselves	Madam chair and members of the committee-thank you for hearing/reading my testimony. I am strongly urging a no vote to HB25-1312.

	First, I would like to let everyone reading/hearing this that just because I may see things differently than you and we may not agree does not mean I am a bigot. I have respect for every person I come in contact with. We are called to love one another no matter our beliefs and/or differences. Thank you for removing sections of the bill that sought to remove parental rights as well as unity of the family. However, as stated by numerous other people today, I fear at some point the sections that were removed will come back. So, it is vitally important you hear the testimony of many parents that are genuinely concerned for the well-being of their children and their family. As of earlier today, 3 to 1, parents are clearly opposing this bill. HB25-1312 indisputably shows that the authors and supporters of this bill see parents not as partners but as an obstacle for their agenda. They are showing through this bill that they do not want to partner with me as a parent in how my kids are going to be raised. These kinds of topics should be handled by parents who are raising their children with their values not with an ideology passed down from the top. This is not about discrimination. This is about parents being parents and giving them the support they need based on what they were created to do. I urge legislators to vote no on HB25-1312 that could further erode parental involvement and religious freedoms Parent's should be the primary educators in their children's lives and the protectors of their children's values. We are here to protect diverse family values and make sure that our children stay safe. The parents and families of Colorado need you to listen. When you made the decision to run to be our elected officials did you have us in mind or an agenda? And you really need to think about who are you there to represent? Because the majority of Colorado parents do not want this. Our representatives should be partners with parents not ideological adversaries. Someone said earlier today that, "children are persons not property." I couldn't agree more. As a parent I have been given the distinct privilege and opportunity to guide my children based on their individual strengths, weaknesses, their ups, their downs and everything in between. Something that only me, as their mother and my husband as their father, could do properly.

	My children were given to me and my husband because God knew that we would be able to guide them best. I did not birth my 7 children only to have them be guided or taken by the state in order to have them conform to an identity they were never meant to have. If passed this bill would treat children as property by the state not as persons that were created to be raised by a loving family. I strongly urge legislators to vote no on HB25-1312. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Brigette Bustos Against themselves	I, as a member of The People, oppose this bill. Further, I find it shameful that a government and its representatives require common people to raise voices on such fundamental truths as what is at hand today. The fundamental tenets of this matter are clear: 1. The bill exists in direct and diabolical opposition to the rights and responsibilities laid upon parents by God, and therefore, by the government of the United States. This bill takes aim at The Family, which preexisted nations and governments. Are you sure that you, as an individual servant, are secure in taking a position against that which God established at the outset of time itself? As your neighbor on this planet and in this nation under God, I personally caution you against such hubris. 2. A human does not have a fully developed brain--the physical organ--until around 25 years of age and, therefore, it is impossible for children to determine that their bodies should be mutilated; they do not have the competency to understand the matter nor its implications. In fact, the bill places a tremendous burden on the young by making them responsible for decisions that they are not equipped to make. To pass this bill is to set children up to harm themselves, their families, and the community in an irreversible, regretful, irreparable manner. To protect children, one would do precisely the opposite of what this bill proposes: he would cause a child to seek wisdom, guidance, and care from the people who love him most: his parents. 3. Codifying language seems to be the new gun powder, a worthy invention particularly for the malevolent. The mere idea that a person can "affirm" his gender by disaffirming his sex lacks intelligence at a quantum level, and efforts to force the matter through legal definitions is cunning and deceitful. This bill is not about

	protecting people who wish to mutilate their bodies and disaffirm their sex, but rather this bill is designed to torch the rights and responsibilities of parents, who possess the right and responsibility to protect their children. Sadly, that protection is most necessary with regard to the government, schools, and other institutions. 4. Schools are outsourced educators, funded by property owners and hired by parents. It is patently wrong to permit, encourage, equip, and even mandate that the hired help (schools and teachers) suggest and encourage the folly of self-determination of sex and gender to children on one hand, and criminalize the parents of those children in the course of their raising their children and directing their educations on the other hand. This bill must not move forward as it exists in direct opposition to the rights of parents and individuals to speak freely and raise their children according to their values and religious traditions. The government and its agencies are playing with fire, and when one plays with fire, it is because one intends to set fire to something. Supporting this bill is an admission of its supporters' intentions to destroy The Family by deconstructing parent rights. 5. The bottom line here is that the government and its current seat holders appear to be attempting to advance faulty ideology wielded as bullets in a cultural revolution, akin to that of China in the last century, by taking aim at The Family, Parenthood, Parents, and the plain and obvious fact that the human is a creation of the Creator, and the Creator made them male and female. The government has left its lane, and is way in over its head in theological matters that it is not qualified, competent, or authorized to opine upon. Making common sense a crime is a crime, and that is what this bill does. Brilliantly, I might add. Please oppose this bill as an expression of your discharging your role as an elected person responsibly, as a servant of the people in a representative government context, and in accordance with the principles upon which this nation is built *under God*. Parents are responsible, and therefore in possession of the rights related thereto, and accountable to an authority much higher than the law with regard to the raising and guidance of their children. It is time for the government to return to common sense and its proper place in society, which is NOT between parents and their children. The bill must die now. Any vote for the bill is an expression of one's will to relinquish his elected post, as he should be considered unfit to serve for the reasons to oppose the bill are nothing greater than common sense. With all *due* respect and in prayer for your clarity of mind and strength of moral character, Brigette
Abigail Batting	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312.

Against themselves	This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Isaac Felix Against themselves	Please vote NO on HB1312. As an 18 year-old Coloradan who values freedom and family, I am concerned by the direction these bills take. They open the door to compelled beliefs and restrict honest conversations. Parents have a right to know what's happening in their child's education or medical care, and it needs to stay this way. This bill would allow family courts to treat a parent's refusal to use a child's chosen name or pronouns as abuse, which would jeopardize custody rights. We should be encouraging collaboration between schools, families, and communities— not replacing parents with policies. Please stand with families and say NO to these bills. Sincerely, Isaac Felix
Ashlyn Bindner	Testimony Against HB1312

Against themselves	I have tremendous compassion for transgender adults. I can tell you from my lived experience that the pain and struggle when a person feels confused, isolated, and like they are in the wrong body is very real. My petition is to leave the children alone. I am one of the many children who escaped the proposed "protections" that this bill would provide. When I was growing up I was called a "Tomboy" but by all definitions, I was a transgender person who grew up in a rural area and was never given the opportunity to transition. As a teenager I was very uncomfortable with my body and came to a point of depression, internal confusion and body dysmorphia. In that season of life I wished I could be, and imagined myself as a male. The more I leaned into this identity the more troubled and depressed I got. If my community would have encouraged gender transition and sex change would have been an option, I'm confident I would have chosen that route. In contrast, my parents saw me as unique and talented and assured me I was perfect the way I was. I look back now and thank God that I was NOT surrounded by people who encouraged me to change my gender just because of the VERY COMMON and NORMAL emotional and mental struggles of teenage HORMONES and EMOTIONS. With time and counseling I was able to resolve my internal struggle with my sexuality and embrace my unique female identity. One of the greatest blessings of my life has been the experience and role of being a Mother. Because I did NOT transition, I was blessed to have given birth vaginally to four beautiful children and nursed all of them. This incredible experience was only possible because I weathered those psychological storms of identity and avoided permanent sterilization, and that was largely due to my parents having the rights and privileges of parenthood that include calling me by my given name and affirming my biological identity. What long term research do we have to show that gender transition is best for children? If we codify regulations to prevent "deadnaming" and "misgendering" CHILDREN, we will only streamline the body dysmorphia and gender transition road for CHILDREN who do not have the cognitive abilities to make long term permanent decisions about their bodies. If gender is fluid and a child's brain (as so many have testified) are not developed enough to make long term decisions. Should we not safeguard our children from going down the pathway of permanent interventions?

	A loving parent would lay down their life for their child. It is that very love that you tread on when you bring this bill before us. This bill has the potential to steal the future from many other individuals like me, who are protected by their parents when going through COMMON emotional and hormonal struggles. People like me who escaped the need to transition and remain free to live a deeply blessed and fulfilled life in their natural identity. I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus that your eyes are opened to the damage that this bill would do to families and other children like myself . Please vote no on HB1312
Zo Murach For themselves	My name is Zo Murach, I use they them/pronouns. I am a poet who's lived in Denver since 2013. I am representing myself in support of HB1312 I would like to share a poem with you today: I Am Not a Woman Women don't scrape their knees they don't fart, they barely sneeze women we're allowed to see only come in one shape and one size, six What if I'm not a woman? Women are demure we're "mousy" Only want to be seen Women are small, they are not six feet tall They are nothing like me at all maybe I'm not a woman Real women bleed, really valuable women breed but my body is not for baby-making Women get raped by men, yes all women!

	receive cat calls and street harassment does it count when they just call me fat and mock me, ok you got me! Maybe I'm really not a woman Frankly I'm not sure I know what that word means So I'm having trouble identifying myself By a mark I never seem to reach I'm not a woman or a man So what does that make me? A child? A deity? An aberration? She She/her/her's Lady Mam Girl Of course you're a women! And Fido's a dog or do you think he want's to be a dragon? I have come to love myself, not easily Not as a woman or man or non-binary Just me, singular, unique My heart does not know the labels I need to define myself within the constructs of society I have chosen to share this poem today as an intersex individual. I am presenting my poem along with my body as evidence that even biological sex is not binary, as many members of the opposition have insisted. However I can agree with one of their talking points for sure. God doesn't make mistakes. My intersex body is not a mistake. Intersex bodies are not mistakes. Trans bodies are not mistakes. I will not make any attempt to bring up our numbers or how much of the population we make

	up. Let's say I'm the only one, that doesn't make me any less real. I am not here tonight as a Democrat or a Republican. That's just another binary I exist despite. I am thirty-seven and I am considered an elder in the queer community. Today happens to be an anniversary for me. Exactly a year ago today, my baby cousin died of alcoholism he was twenty-seven. This may seem unrelated, but it isn't. After his first suicide attempt seven years ago, he came out to me. He told me that his mom, my aunt threw him out of the house when he was seventeen because of it. I wish I would have done more with that information. I know it's not my fault he died, but I also know I - all of us could do more to protect our queer youth. It isn't always just suicide. It's letting people who don't fit into a perfect binary fall through the cracks. It's about living up to our potential, being deprived the pursuit of happiness. Please vote yes on 1312. Please protect kids like Andy. Please protect people like me. note: I've been watching testimony on Zoom since it started at 1:30. I am finishing this writing at 11:17. I will not be able to testify in person, and that's ok. Even though it was hard to listen to so many people acting in bad faith, and speaking to erase my body, there's no place I'd rather be. I can't think of a better way to honor my cousin Andy. Even if it's too late for him, I'm proud to move forward and do more for my community.
Meagan Huber For themselves	Trans people deserve to be respected and treated with dignity. One of the things I learned growing up in our beautiful state is that all people are welcome here and I want to continue to proudly boast that I am from a place that is a haven for people. My friends and family who are trans are asking to be given the same respect that others benefit from in society. Do not fall for the misinformation and hateful comments of those opposing - protect trans people!
Caleb Davis Against themselves	To the Committee, I am urging you as a Colorado citizen, a local church pastor and a father to vote no on this bill. As the father of two teenagers I have an upfront view into the difficulties that children face as they grow up and learn to live in the world around them. The most stable environment for a child (including teenagers!) is with their parents. This bill is a radical and reckless attempt to deny parents the right to parent their children, provide guidance and make important medical decisions. "Child Abuse" is for physical harm towards a child, the re-defining of child abuse to include a parents ability to call their child by their given name is dangerous for children and incredibly harmful to society. Children are just that, children. They need the wisdom, guidance, and direction of their parents and it is a parents obligation to protect their children from harm. Gender transitions are not safe for children and create massive consequences later in life. I urge you to leave medical decisions of minors to their parents for both the flourishing of Colorado children and society. Sincerely, Caleb Davis

Alex Kublitskiy Against themselves	This is against Gods laws and an attack on Christians.
Faye Barnhart Against Colorado Life Initiative and Pastors For Life	Thank you for striking Sections 2, 5, and 8 because of the outpouring of Coloradans against this bill. I'm Faye Barnhart with Colorado Life Initiative and Pastors For Life honored to work with thousands of Coloradans, pastors, and congregations across the state praying and working in faith to protect our most vulnerable children directing you in representing us to Vote NO on HB25-1312 and companion bills including 1309. I'm thankful my grandchildren no longer live in this state. This bill does not protect children; it endangers them. And it harms others. This bill attacks the rights of all Coloradans and infringes on MY civil rights. This bill is abusive. This bill is not safe for anyone. It is a cycle of violence where those being abusive see themselves as victims and project their own agenda onto others. If parents want to raise their kids transgender, no one is stopping you, so why do you want to impose your beliefs and stop parents from raising their children to be themselves in the bodies they already have without threats from the state? There is nothing stopping individuals from legally changing their name and adults can have surgeries. Violence is already illegal. No one is debating that. This bill is targeting persecuting Christians. People confused about their gender don't want to be targeted or persecuted, neither do we. It is coercive and abusive of the state to infringe on our rights in our homes, churches, and businesses. This bill is immoral and on the wrong side of history. Passage of this bill will not make emotional pain go away. It's a human condition we all share in need of a Savior who loves us just the way He created us without hormones or surgeries. Government cannot address the pain of a soul, only God can do that. Government is not god. If I disagree with you it does not mean that I hate you. In fact, it's because I may love you enough to tell you the truth. No one should be victimized nor should the pain of these people be used to justify a government takeover of our homes, churches, and businesses. No one is denying someone's gender by recognizing their actual gender. The only one misgendering are those who normalize "transgender" against all scientific, historical, theological, and mental health realities.

	Youth are targeted in public schools to think they are transgender which is killing our youth. Parents and adults affirming the actual gender of children and calling them by the name they gave to them at birth is not child abuse, but the government keeping the truth from these children is child abuse. It is NOT loving to lie to children or to accept behavior that will destroy them. If children is going to run into a street we stop them. It is child abuse to expose these children to dysphoria and delusional thinking in our public schools to proselytize these children for social and medical experimentation and ultimately sterilize them and create lifelong patients for unethical organizations seeking to destroy children with population control and eugenic goals. Where does the state intend to come up with all these foster families and money for these children as lifeline guardians of the state plus all their medical expenses for the rest of their lives because of the unnatural castration of their bodies, hormones, and the mental health problems that will compound into adulthood when they want to transition back and discover they cannot have their own children? Sage in Virginia was trafficked by a sexual predator when a judge wouldn't return her to her parents because of false allegations of misgendering abuse. Yaeli in California was ripped from her loving family to be medically transitioned by the state. She spiraled into depression and took her own life. It is not abusive for a parent to tell their child the same thing the doctor told them at birth. We have eyes, we know the difference. In every cell of your body is an xx or xy chromosome that says you are either male or female. You cannot change that with hormones and surgeries that permanently sterilize children. We need to affirm a child's natural gender and help them feel good about themselves, not let children become preyed upon for experimentation against the parents' better judgment for their child. Parents love their children more than the state ever could and must live with the lifelong consequences for generations. We help children transition into adulthood, not change who they are! Children believe what adults tell them. What adults are telling these children is a lie. And now you're afraid of adults who will tell children the truth about who they are! The government has no business raising children or tearing children from the stability and consistency of healthy families. It is abusive of government and violence to these children to presume that strangers sitting at a Capitol in Denver know what's best for other people's families, churches, and businesses. This bill violates our religious liberties, our rights as parents and grandparents, and our freedom of speech as business owners, churchgoers, and citizens.

	Even the compassion of the wicked is cruel. It is not the job of government to make people play nice. Christians spend millions of dollars helping everyone even youth who are confused about their gender. If you pass this draconian, unjust, unfair, Communist-Marxist legislation, every Coloradan has a moral obligation to defy it. We also have a moral obligation to make sure anyone who votes for this never sits in these seats again. If you vote for this you have lost all common sense and decency. We must protect our children, our families, and our communities from you. We answer to a higher power, and you will, too. Stop doing evil and learn to do good. Parents and communities can best protect the children they are raising and know personally. Do what is right and moral by voting NO on HB25-1312.
Joe Jameson Against Gays Against Groomers	Good evening, Committee Members. My name is Joe Jameson, and I serve as the Director of Content for the LGB and T non-profit organization, Gays Against Groomers. As a gay parent, I am here today TO strongly urge you to oppose this bill. Let's begin with the individual this bill is named after—Kelly Loving. She was tragically murdered by a trans-identified shooter. To use her name in a bill that would contribute to the rise of trans-identification is a lazy manipulative emotional tactic. No one wants their legacy tied to the increase of mental illness. Speaking of emotional tactics, the proponents of this bill will rely heavily on personal anecdotes and emotional appeals, as they lack factual or scientific support. Their stories of being trans, while compelling, are irrelevant to the core issue at hand: parental rights. Speaking to this bill, it undermines parents' ability to protect their children from harmful ideologies that set them up for failure. Another group benefiting from this bill are the lawyers, such as Bread and Roses, who stand to profit immensely by clogging the Colorado judicial system with custody battles involving trans identified children who are trafficked across state lines. These individuals should not have a say in shaping this legislation. Finally, the sponsors of this bill have gone so far as to label parents like myself as Nazis. As a gay man, I find this deeply offensive. History reminds us that Nazis experimented on and sterilized gay individuals during WWII. Today, Colorado's youth face a similar threat. Being gay is accepting yourself for who you are, trans ideology perverts that message to change yourself into something you can never be. Allowing this bill to continue will unnecessarily sterilize countless gay children, and that is blood on your hands. You have a choice today. I urge you to oppose this bill and stand with those who truly have children's best interests at heart—their parents. Thank you.

Finnegan Wilson For themselves	I am non-binary. This is a newer development for me, as I did not have the terminology to describe my experience or the exposure to this terminology until graduating college. It does, however, represent a feeling I have had for my whole life. I carry shame in my gender expression because of disapproving comments from figures of authority in my life. Disapproval, cast willingly or not, that stays with me to this day. Disapproval about how I dressed and how I acted. Disapproval for my own expression and sense of self. As far as I can tell, this disapproval was cast from ignorance rather than bigotry. I have faith that these authority figures would have attempted to adjust their behavior had they understood the impact it would have on me. Had I the language to elucidate my feelings and illustrate my identity, I would have expressed this immutable condition. Instead, I was convinced that I was the problem, that I was not enough, that I had to change to fit into an identity that did not serve me. After years of support, education, and relentless effort to understand myself, I am finally free from the shackles of an identity that I do not identify with. The shame remains. And for many others, this shame is bolstered by a definitive risk to their physical and mental well being. In some really depressing cases, this shame and risk follows them home. If home is not safe, if school is not safe, if publicly accommodated places are not safe, then we have failed to protect a vulnerable group of people. This is not ignorance, but willing compliance with those who wish to harm our friends, family, or neighbors. This is unacceptable. Protections against discrimination such as deadnaming and misgendering provided by this act are critical to make Colorado a safe place for all people. Everyone deserves to feel safe in their homes. This bill isn't about protecting some nebulous group, this is about protecting our fellow humans, and our fellow Coloradans.
Aaron Wright Against themselves	I ask that you vote no on this bill. This bill promises protection but only delivers confusion. Part of being a parent is instructing a child in family and religious beliefs. This bill would disallow that and remove children via the courts for following one of the basic tenets of parenting. One of the most basic question a faith or religion asks is what it means to be human. At basic level what is human? If a Christian or Jew were to point their children to Genesis 1:26-27 and teach the belief that has been held for thousands of years that there are only two unchanging genders, then according to this bill in court that parents would be labeled a child adviser and stripped of their children. This is not safety for children this is establishing a new understanding of humans. Any votes in favor of this bill do not demonstrate love, they only demonstrate a desire to control thoughts and beliefs. This is not democracy but control via threats and brute force. This is not kindness or safety it is tyranny.

Cathy Coots Against themselves	To whom it may concern, I am testifying today to VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE HB25-1312 and SB25-284. I am a mother of 2 men, and a grandmother of a beautiful 6 year old granddaughter, and I fear that my children and grandchildren's religious freedoms are at stake with the passing of this bill. Additionally, I am certain our minor children and grandchildren are not equipped with the maturity, knowledge or life experience to make life changing decisions regarding their health and well being. I will not stand idly by while my state and local government attempt to redefine truth and attack the biblical principles our nation was founded on. Both the truth of God's Word, and the biology of human beings make it very clear that there are only two genders, male and female. The scientific definition of a man/male is defined as being a human born with XY chromosomes that has a penis and testicles, and can produce sperm for the purpose of procreation. The biblical definition of a man/male is defined as a human species created by God, in His own image, to have dominion over creation. The scientific definition of a female is defined as being a human born with XX chromosomes that has a vagina, can bear offspring or produce eggs, distinguished biologically by the production of gametes that can be fertilized by male sperm to reproduce. The biblical definition of a woman/female is defined as a human species created by God, as a complement to man, to be a life-bringer and life-bearer. These are indisputable facts. It is also an indisputable fact that parents in the United States of America have constitutional rights related to the care, custody, and upbringing of their children, primarily protected by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. This right includes the freedom to make decisions about their children's education, religious upbringing and medical care. The Supreme Court also recognized, in <i>Pierce V Soc'y of Sisters</i> (1925), that "the child is not the mere creature of the state; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations." And in <i>Prince V Massachusetts</i> (1944), the Supreme Court declared that "it is cardinal with us that the custody, care and future of the child reside first in the parents, whose primary function and freedom include preparation for obligations the state can neither supply nor hinder." How can you possibly suggest that you are in a better position to know what's best for the education, religious upbringing and medical care of my child? Do you have any idea what a dangerous precedence you are setting if you pass these bills? Do you have any idea how devastating the consequences of passing these bills will be on Colorado families, especially children? Parents in Colorado could soon be declared unfit for referring to their child by their legal name. Health professionals could face sanctions for maintaining accurate medical records. Employers could be held liable for allowing employees to express constitutionally protected views online. These are not anti-discrimination laws, this is government-mandated ideology. You cannot take away the rights of Colorado families, religious organizations and business owners, that are afforded to us by the United States Constitution. I implore you to search your conscience, whether biblically rooted or not, and realize what these bills could do to our most vulnerable Colorado citizens, our young children. These bills represent an egregious assault on parental rights, freedom of speech, religious liberty, reason and science, and, most importantly, the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children. I will end my testimony with this, on this very day in history, April 30, 1789 was the inaugural inauguration for

	President George Washington. He was sworn into office on the steps of Federal Hall in NYC. In an excerpt from his speech, he is quoted as saying "The the propitious smiles of Heaven, can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained." After his inauguration, Washington, his wife and members of congress walked to St Paul's Chapel where Washington dedicated the United States of America to the Lord. "Almighty God: We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government, and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow-citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen." - George Washington, April 30, 1789. On March 30, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued a national proclamation designating April 30, 1863 as a day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer. This proclamation, detailed in Proclamation 97, was a response to a request from the U.S. Senate and aimed to unite the nation in a period of national crisis. This is a portion of his speech: "Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness. Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do by this my proclamation designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer. And I do hereby request all the people to abstain on that day from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite at their several places of public worship and their respective homes in keeping the day holy to the Lord and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion. All this being done in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the divine teachings that the united cry of the nation will be heard on high and answered with blessings no less than the pardon of our national sins and the restoration of our now divided and suffering country to its former happy condition of unity and peace. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed." -Abraham Lincoln, March 30, 1863. I echo the prayers of President George Washington and President Abraham Lincoln today, and I pray for your souls if you pass this bill. The Lord God Almighty is ALWAYS in the details. The Lord God Almighty is ALWAYS right and just. The Lord God Almighty's glory and honor will ALWAYS win out over evil. AMEN!
Genevieve Richard For themselves	Hello, my name is Genevieve Richard and I am a trans woman who has lived in Colorado Springs her entire life. I am writing today to urge you to vote yes on the Kelly Loving Act.

	Some of the people who have spoken against this bill have cited the Cast Review. However, it should be noted that the Cast Review faced immediate and very public backlash across the medical industry all across the world, particular from people who have been studying and working in transgender health for decades. The Cast Review explicitly excluded trans people from key roles and research analysis and oversight of the project, while including prominent people who deny the very existence of trans children who in fact were in charge of conducting this research. This shows an obvious bias, but the Cast Review has also been criticized for double standards in the interpretation of data, substandard scientific rigor, and many methodological flaws. Someone else spoke of a review that's going to be published by President Donald Trumps administration, and he spoke with great confidence that it's going to be a similar report. But of course it is! Both of them were commissioned not to conduct good scientific research, not in the interest of studying and caring for transgender people, but specifically to push an anti trans ideology. This is deeply infuriating when you consider that the regret rate for gender affirming health care including surgeries for trans people has a regret rate of less than one percent. That is lower than the regret rate for things like knee replacements and childbirth. If any other medical intervention had a regret rate of one percent, it would be considered a medical miracle. One other thing that was brought up is the fact that trans people, including those who have transitioned, are at a higher risk of suicide, and that is true. We're also at a higher risk of being fired, targeted by police, and discriminated against. We are at a higher rate of being targeted by verbal, physical, and sexual assault. These things might be related! Right now we are under assault in general from the Trump administration. This is especially true in Colorado Springs, where I live. Groups like Focus on the Family and New Life Church consistently lobby on a local, state, and national level against the rights of my community. Decades ago they were arguing against gay marriage. That's not in vogue anymore, and now they're beating on trans people. Keep that in mind when you hear what these groups say. Lastly, I'd want you to remember that the people who wrote this law did so under the advisement of hundreds of trans people across Colorado, specifically in places where trans people are targeted like where I live. It was written to address specific types of discrimination we face. You have an opportunity to listen to trans voices here and provide us the legal protections we are asking for and that we deserve. Vote yes on the Kelly Loving Act.

Madeleine Grigg For themselves	My name is Madeleine Grigg, and as an educator and lifelong resident of Colorado, I proudly support HB25-1312, the Kelly Loving Act. We are in a time of social and political turbulence where basic human rights are misconstrued as privileges reserved for a select few and awarded through a proverbial lottery system. Historically, a preemptive indicator of political turmoil is when one social class becomes the "canary in the coal mine." In 1940s Germany, it was the Jewish and disabled; in Romania it is the Romani people; in the early-colonial era of the United States, it was Black and Indigenous people, particularly women; and now, transgender people are forced to wear the "scarlet letter" of otherness in society. Transgender people are a minority in our community, but governments practicing and perfecting mechanisms to legislate people out of public life presents a danger to all of us. The Kelly Loving Act correctly identifies deadnaming and intentional misgendering as forms of discrimination. Adults, particularly those working directly with children, are tasked with creating safe and nurturing environments where children can become the truest versions of themselves. It is never our job to tell children who they can and cannot be; rather, to clear out what lies in the way of them becoming who they truly are. The Kelly Loving Act does this by ensuring children don't face developmental interference and don't spend precious years of their childhood plagued by cognitive dissonance, trying to resolve the conflict between who they are at their core and how they must present to the adults in their lives. This act will make Colorado a vibrant community and a safer space for transgender people. It is incumbent upon us to do everything we can to protect the most vulnerable among us. Thank you, and I am grateful for your "yes" vote on HB25-1312.
Jonathan Haley Against themselves	This bill is a violation of the Establishment clause of the Constitution of the United States. It essentially imposes one particular belief system on the citizens of Colorado (and with attendant legal penalties, to boot).
Kylee Alvarez Against themselves	This bill would compromise the ability of parents to make decisions regarding their children and infringe on the rights . This bill is completely unconstitutional! It goes against our rights as American citizens. Children belong to their parents not the government! This is an attack on our freedom, our rights, our families, and our children!

Joshua Lozancich Against themselves	Madam Chair, My name is Joshua Lozancich. I am a constituent of Senator Ball, in Senate District 31. I'm submitting written testimony to urge you, and the other Senate Judiciary Committee Members, to vote no on HB25-1312. My opposition stems primarily from the fact that this is a gross infringement on parental rights. We don't let children make major decisions such as smoking, drinking, and alcohol till certain ages, and parents acts as a liaison to children on those matters. This bill would potentially turn that paradigm upside down, and allow children to make life altering decisions with serious consequences. If we aren't permitting minors to make decisions on the matters mentioned previously, why is this permissible with regards to gender? Additionally, I'm concerned about the potential infringement on free speech, the lack of protection for Religious Beliefs, as well as the presence of the safety clause. If this bill is going to pass out of committee and/or off the Senate Floor, it should be amended to include religious protections with regards to the contents of the bill, and Act-Subject-To-Petition Clause. If passed, the people of Colorado should have a right to potentially vote on this bill, and Coloradans of deep religious convictions (myself included) should have their religious beliefs respected. Thank you for your time and consideration, Joshua Lozancich
Lesley Meyer Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who

	loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Ross Suchman Against himself	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech. Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Claire Faulkner Against himself	Please vote no on this bill today for the protection of children and families. If we embark down this path as a state, I truly believe it is a dangerous slippery slope of eroding our families, undermining parents, & giving the state entirely too much power. Children are not wards of the state. They are given by God into families. The government is for the protecting of & good of its people, and this bill would deeply wound our people. Thank you for your time.
Tyler Wellnitz	Hello Mr. and or Madam Chair and committee thank you for the chance to hear me out this evening. I have heard multiple times over the course of the afternoon and

Against themselves	evening from the trans community proponents that they felt uncomfortable in their bodies. However may I be so bold as a heterosexual christian husband and father to tell you that I too have had seasons of my life where I have felt uncomfortable. One of those seasons being during puberty. May I also go onto say truthfully as we know, life gives us seasons of joy and seasons of uncomfortable pain. Puberty being one of those times. Puberty is a right of passage for all young people, one that is at times uncomfortable, messy and difficult. However it is one that we must freely allow all young people to go through in order to grow into the person God is calling us to be. It is a necessary season of change that all young people must be allowed to go through without the mutilation of their reproductive body parts also without puberty and hormone blockers. May I also further boldly and truthfully state that God is real and he is a loving God. He accepts us just as we are male and female. No need to transition and change into the opposite sex for his approval and love. God defines us not the ideology of believing you need to transition to be accepted. My friends again only God defines us, our identities lie in Christ alone! However as one gentleman tonight previously stated God will not be mocked. Anyone supporting this bill will face God's wrath. Please I urge you all to vote no on HB25-1312. We are not God! So please stop playing God by trying to forcefully impose unconstitutional, unfair, immoral sinful laws onto loving parents like my wife and I. We are the parents we know best what our children need, not the government! Our babies are perfect as the sex they were born as. Lastly if kids as previously stated tonight outgrow the gender dysphoria by age 21 years old. Why not allow them to wait? Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up wings like eagles they shall run and not grow weary they shall walk and not grow faint. Thank you for hearing me out God Bless you all!
Kerry Sheedy Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech.

	Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Jillian Blair Against themselves	Good evening, My name is Jillian Blair, and I'm here tonight as a daughter of the most high and as an extremely concerned parent. House Bill -1312 is not just another piece of legislation—it is a bill that has the power to fundamentally alter the relationship between parents and their children. It impacts families at their core: emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually. This isn't just policy—it feels like an experiment being conducted on the next generation. And our children should not be the subjects of political or ideological experimentation. The term "coercive control" should never be used to describe a loving parent doing their best to raise their child with truth, honor, love, and respect. True coercive control is when a system—or a state—takes a child's confusion, or even their innocent imagination, and uses it to interfere with their development and identity. That, to me, is the real abuse. Let me tell you about my daughter. She's 7 years old. For a couple of years, she would say things like, "I want to be a boy," or "I want my hair like Daddy." And you know what? That's not a crisis. That's childhood. This is a little girl who can't decide what toy to pick out at the store, or what she wants for dinner, how to dress for the weather or even how to brush her teeth without my help. She is still learning, growing, and discovering who she is and how to pursue what is right, good, true, and beautiful. Now imagine she had said something like that to a teacher at school—maybe that she was upset because I wouldn't shave her head—and the state stepped in. Would you trust a government agency to understand her better than I do? Would you trust the state to decide what's best for her heart, her mind, her body, and her soul? This bill is not protecting children—it's undermining the essential, irreplaceable role of

	parents. It's crossing a boundary that should never be crossed. My daughter is a happy, thriving little girl. Could you imagine the consequences if I had taken those early comments and pushed her down a path she wasn't ready for? If I had encouraged her to make life-altering decisions based on momentary thoughts and feelings? That's not compassion—that's negligence. And that's exactly what this bill risks promoting. We are looking at a future where more and more children may grow up confused, anxious, depressed, and spiritually lost. House bill-1312 will contribute to that crisis. Let the kids be kids. Let the parents parent. I am not denying that gender dysphoria is real, or that families and individuals navigating these situations deserve compassion. They do. But we can offer compassion without taking away parental rights or fast-tracking decisions that WILL have irreversible consequences. These decisions must remain between parents, children not dictated by the state. Colorado, please—step back. Use common sense. Protect our children by empowering parents, not replacing them. vote NO on HB-1312. May you do what is true, right and good! And may God have mercy on us. Thank you for your time.
Mark Chilson Against American Family Rights Association	Mark Chilson 4801 East Ninth Avenue No. 206 Denver, CO 80220 (303) 335 - 7222 Maercus1@protonmail.com Wednesday, April 30, 2025 RE: Written Testimony Submitted by Colorado Constituent Against HB25-1312 Dear State Senators: No parameter is more indicative of a future filled with disaster than that a child come under the jurisdiction of Family Court or Juvenile Court. In every dimension, the life of the child becomes worse than before the interaction. Naturally the Courts wish to further extend their grip over the life of the children they harm. Those who derive their livelihood from the administrative exploitation of children however sing a different tune. Sadly it is this siren song to which the most gullible of legislators have paid heed. Child Protective Services (CPS) is a self-serving agency possessing direct power surpassing those of the Police. By abusing children in its care it has successfully

	created a cycle of dysfunction that justifies its ever more monumental budgetary requests. This bill is another in the same vein. It seeks to place CPS as the arbiter of gender confusion matters of each minor in the state of Colorado. Representative Lorena Garcia and Representative Rebekah Stewart will be forever associated in parents' minds as being the two women who sought a permanent bifurcation of parent from child in an American state—an effort that will be overturned by legislation or by referendum. Each Senator now signing off on this monstrosity will have his and her name forever recorded with this effort as well. Educators statewide have succeeded in inculcating gender confusion in thousands of Colorado minors. These will be the same 'first responders' then first making referrals to CPS in order that children might be removed from the home. The scam runs thus: Declare parents unfit, claim kinship placement impossible, then reap massive windfalls in reimbursements from the Federal government under Title IV-E. It will be clear to posterity that Senators voted for this bill out of a combination of power lust and greed. All claims to nobler motives will go by the wayside. Those Colorado Senators voting in support are about to make their names infamous nationwide. Respectfully submitted, Mark Chilson
Darin Rodriguez Against themselves	My name is Darin Rodriguez of Berthoud, CO. In my own behalf, I am a wife and homeschool mother of 4. As a mother of a teen and preteen and as a person who has lived life myself, I understand that one may not always feel comfortable in their own body, especially through the preteen and teenage years. Puberty is a normal and vulnerable part of growing up. Sexuality is a topic best introduced and discussed within the home and under the guidance of loving parents. Who knows a child better than an involved and loving parent? No one knows my children better than my husband and I. As their father and mother no one will ever protect and love them more than we will. I am grateful that we are able to homeschool our children. Their education is not subject to gender affirming ideology that would cause doubt and would have them believe that their body is somehow wrong. Children need support, time, and guidance to process puberty and grow into adulthood. They do not need to be subjected to ideologies that perpetuate doubt and confusion regarding how wonderfully they have been created. There's absolutely nothing that I won't love my children through, even if I don't agree with them. To disagree with your child does not mean you don't love or support them. The legislation being presented dares to remove a child from loving parental care because the parent may not agree with the child's current perspective. A child is not fully mature in mind or body, yet his bill would allow a child authority

	over their parents, forcing parents to conform to their ideas, or face legal ramifications. This bill would remove children from loving and supportive parents. Government does not know better than parents. I know and love many transgender people. Every individual should be treated with compassion and respect. My heart goes out to all those who have shared their stories in the senate hearing today. However, this bill violates parental rights, takes advantage of children, and is an extreme government overreach. I strongly urge a NO vote on HB 25-1312. Thank you.
Rosa Estrada Against themselves	It is our duty as Christians to respect and love all people. We must respect and love all people enough to tell them the truth when they are on a destructive path. We must not encourage them to pursue a destructive path that is destructive for them, destructive for their families, destructive for their communities, and destructive to society, and to humanity itself. When one person lives in a way that is not consistent with the truth and the reality of the world, in a way that is not beneficial to themselves and to the world around them, this lifestyle must not be encouraged. Furthermore, it is not the duty of the state to impose ideologies of its own persuasion to interfere with the family lives, work lives, and everyday lives of its citizens. It is the duty and the role of public officials to protect the constitutional rights of its citizens as set forth by the founding fathers. For these reasons, and for the many reasons brought forth by medical professionals and parents, teachers, the history of Germany, and all people who have educated themselves on this issue, I urge you to vote no on hb 25-1312
Rebecca Wolf Against themselves	To The Honorable men and women in positions of Trust. The State should be protecting our rights to protect and defend our children from teachers with liberal agenda's to brain wash our kids. The State should Not be legislating irreversible harm to children! "Gender affirming care" causes irreversible damage to young children who are just discovering their identity. I Firmly Believe that if this passes, many Good families and small businesses will be leaving Colorado. Do we still want to be a Democracy in Colorado, or more like a Communist or Natzi, Germany?? Many families will have to leave Colorado to protect their children!! This bill will decimate the heart of the family, and enable children to be ripped from their homes. Isn't our Foster Care system already overwhelmed!!! PLEASE STAND AGAINST HB25 1213!!! Protect Families in Colorado!!
Margo Simpson Against themselves	Hello, my name is Margo Simpson. I'm speaking to you today as a mother, a voter, and—most importantly—as an American who believes deeply in freedom and individual rights. I urge you to vote no on HB25-1312.

	Regardless of where you stand on transgender issues or gender-affirming care, I ask you to consider this bill through a different lens: the fundamental values that define us as Americans. America was built on the revolutionary idea that individuals—not the government—hold the primary rights and responsibilities for their own lives, families, and beliefs. HB25-1312 violates those principles. One of the most sacred individual rights is the right of parents to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their children. This bill inserts the state into deeply personal and complex family decisions. Our founders would have been alarmed by such government overreach into private family life. Even more troubling, this bill infringes upon our First Amendment rights. By criminalizing speech—such as “deadnaming” or “misgendering”—we open the door to state control over private expression. Imagine a Colorado where citizens fear speaking openly in their homes, schools, or businesses. That’s not just chilling—it’s un-American. I urge you to set aside partisan politics and remember the oath you took. You were elected to protect the rights of all Coloradans and to defend the constitutional boundaries of government power. Policing speech and undermining parental rights is not your mandate. It is not your role. Please vote NO on HB25-1312—not because of any ideology, but because freedom depends on it. Coloradans will thank you for standing on principle.
kevin langlois Against himself	Greetings. This is the first act of writing to my state legislature I have ever done. That should speak loudly. I am a pretty go with the flow kind of a guy, but this proposed legislation is going way beyond what is appropriate for the state to be building into the law of the land. I have 3 elementary school age daughters, and I want them to be able to grow up in a state that they have the freedom of speech to speak the truth. Men are men and women are women. The words we use do have meaning and power and we need to be speaking truth when we speak. This legislation compels specific speech. Isn't that against the first amendment? Forcing me to address someone a specific way or forcing me to speak what I do not believe is not what freedom of speech is. Is misgendering someone abrasive to them, yeah, I would think so, but without abusive speech then there is no free speech.

	I ask the legislators to vote no on this and allow the citizens of Colorado to continue to have free speech and to be able to speak the truth. Sincerely, Kevin Langlois
Rabbi-Jacob Bellinsky Against himself	As a Father and rabbi, I feel compelled to speak against House Bill 25-1312, misleadingly titled "Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals." While our tradition teaches us to treat every human being with dignity and respect, this bill represents a profound threat to religious liberty, parental rights, and the sanctity of the family unit that has been the cornerstone of civilization for millennia. In Jewish tradition, parents have both the sacred right and obligation to raise their children according to religious teachings and values. The Torah commands us to "teach them diligently to your children" (Deuteronomy 6:7). This divine mandate is threatened by HB25-1312, which fundamentally alters the parent-child relationship by classifying a parent's use of a child's birth name or biological pronouns as "coercive control." Section 2 of this bill specifically defines "deadnaming" and "misgendering" as forms of coercive control that would be considered in child custody decisions. This places religious parents in an impossible position – forced to choose between following their sincere religious beliefs about gender as created by G-d, or potentially losing custody of their children. Parents who view gender through the lens of religious teaching could be deemed abusive simply for maintaining these deeply held convictions. This represents not merely government overreach, but a direct assault on religious families whose understanding of human nature is informed by thousands of years of religious tradition and sacred texts. Sections 4-6 of this bill mandate that Colorado schools cannot create or enforce dress codes based on gender and must allow students to abide by any variation of the dress code. This directly conflicts with the practices of many religious schools, including Jewish day schools, where modesty (tzniut) and appropriate gender-distinct attire may be part of the religious educational environment. The bill's provisions requiring that chosen name policies be "inclusive of all reasons" a student might use a name different from their legal name would force religious schools to adopt practices that may directly contradict their theological understanding of gender as divinely ordained. For religious communities that view gender as a sacred aspect of divine creation, these mandates represent not merely bureaucratic overreach but an attack on our very understanding of human nature as created in the image of G-d. Sections 8-9 of this bill add "deadnaming" and "misgendering" to the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, potentially criminalizing speech that is guided by religious

	conviction. The bill defines these terms to include situations where someone "purposefully, and with the intent to disregard the individual's gender identity" uses a birth name or pronouns that differ from an individual's chosen identity. This language creates a direct conflict with religious expression. In many faith traditions, including Judaism, our understanding of human nature comes from sacred texts that describe humanity as created male and female. By compelling speech that contradicts religious teaching, this bill violates both the free exercise of religion and free speech protections guaranteed by the First Amendment. For those will such religious beliefs like myself, being forced to use language that contradicts our theological understanding of gender is not merely an inconvenience – it represents state coercion to violate our conscience and religious teachings. The state should not position itself as the arbiter of religious doctrine on matters of human nature and identity. Section 3 of the bill prohibits Colorado courts from applying or giving force to another state's laws regarding removal of a child from a parent who has "assisted the child in obtaining gender-affirming health-care services." While appearing to protect parents, this bill actually creates a concerning one-way arrangement that favors medical transition while potentially penalizing parents who object. Jewish tradition places tremendous emphasis on parental authority in guiding children, coupled with the principle of pikuach nefesh – the preservation of human life and wellbeing. Parents who express caution about permanent medical interventions for gender dysphoria may be acting out of deep concern for their child's long-term wellbeing, informed by both religious values and emerging medical evidence about the irreversible nature of certain treatments. This bill creates an environment where the state, not loving parents, becomes the ultimate authority on deeply personal medical decisions that violate religious teachings about the sanctity of the body as created by God. Many religious parents have legitimate concerns about medical interventions that permanently alter healthy bodies, especially for minors who cannot fully comprehend the lifelong consequences of such decisions. I implore Colorado lawmakers to vote "No" on HB25-1312 and instead seek balanced legislation that respects: - The constitutional right to freedom of religion and parents' divine mandate to raise children according to their faith traditions - The diversity of sincerely held religious views on gender and human nature - The protection of religious speech and conscience rights - The sacred bond between parents and children that predates and transcends government authority

	Throughout history, governments that have sought to come between parents and children or dictate religious beliefs have done tremendous harm. Our nation was founded on principles of religious freedom that this bill threatens to undermine. The Torah teaches us that "children are a heritage from G-d" (Psalms 127:3), entrusted to parents by G-d, and G-d alone, to be raised according to divine teachings – not according to shifting ideologies or state mandates. This bill represents a dangerous governmental overreach that would harm Colorado families of faith by inserting the state between parents and children on matters of profound religious significance. I ask you to protect religious liberty, parental rights, and the integrity of the family by voting against HB25-1312.
Arabi Mabingani For themselves	I have been fortunate to be close with many beautiful transgender men and women in my life, and the pain of mis-gendering and dead naming is clearly a form of abuse that should be prevented. I believe this act will help protect trans people, who are entitled to the same feelings of safety and security that many of us enjoy.
Daniella Houk Against themselves	I am writing to strongly oppose this bill. Parents have the ultimate right and responsibility to raise their own children. No government agency, teacher, or judge knows a child better than their parent. The government has no business setting up between a parent and their minor child who is suffering from gender confusion. The parents have the right to address these issues as they see fit. Children do not know better than their own parents and should not be removed from parental protection in this way. We must not punish parents for calling their child by the name given to them at birth. Please vote no on this ridiculous bill.
Audra Jones Against themselves	While perhaps, to not merely assume the intentions of the bill as solely wicked, there is a desire to remove a child from a truly dangerous situation, I urge you to consider the following: 1. This bill stands in opposition to the freedom of speech protected by the First Amendment of our Constitution. Should a parent desire to call the child they have lovingly named and raised by their name, they should be able to do so, even solely as included in their right to freedom of speech, even if some deem this 'offensive.' 2. This bill stands in opposition to the freedom of religion by condemning the practice of certain religions that believe there are only male and female, while forcing upon all Coloradans the religion of sexual and gender identity. 3. In both of these instances, while not only stomping upon freedoms granted by our nation's Constitution, this bill is also seeking to remove the importance of parents and the structure of the family. For a people, broadly speaking, who so despise the foster care system that the right to murder a child in the womb is held as a greater good than allowing the potential of a child in the system, why do you so badly want to rip children away from loving parents to place them in such a system? 4. To place such a high importance on the feelings of the child as related to the gender and identity expression is hypocritical to our national perspective on children in other regards. In Colorado, for example, and similar in many other states of the

	nation, a minor under the age of 18 requires guardian permission to get married, and under 16, are not allowed to marry at all. In Colorado, and again, similar throughout much of the nation, a minor under the age of 16 is not allowed to get a tattoo, while minors aged 16 and 17 require parental permission to do so. Why should the feelings of gender confusion, which often lead to much more permanent decisions than tattoos or marriage, be upheld so highly as to allow the removal of a child from their parents when there is a disagreement, when these other instances remain protective of such a young and developing mind? I urge you to consider your own hypocrisy in regards to the existence of our nation and its laws, as well as your intentions to truly help children or to push a political agenda that ultimately harms those children. Thank you for your time.
Loretta Ragsdale Against themselves	Dear senators and governor police I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you to not destroy freedom in colorado. This bill was rushed through the house on sunday silencing the voices of coloradons and cutting off critical debate. This bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children. Parents not the government know and sacrifice daily for their children and are best equipped to make decisions about their well being. For the sake of our families , our schools and businesses and the future of colorado I respectfully urge you to stand for parental rights and vote no on HB25-1312
Grace Hoover For themselves	After witnessing multiple executive orders and over 800 anti lgbtq+ bills proposed across the country in 2025 alone, it is very clear that the rights of this community are under attack. This bill and bills like it that expand the rights of trans people are a small yet important building block in a foundation aimed at fighting the threat of fascism this country currently faces. Simply put, trans rights are human rights. Human rights must be protected and expanded upon in order to pursue the dream of freedom this country represents and holds so dearly.
Haley Brueckman For themselves	My name is Hazel and I am testifying in support of the Kelly Loving Act. I am a part of of the LGBTQ+ community and I believe in the importance of having your chosen gender identity affirmed and respected in all situations. I have seen through personal experience, both as someone who identifies as non-binary and for my partner who is trans, how important it is to have the freedom to express your gender in whatever way fits you. Not having this opportunity can be extremely harmful and can cause higher risk of depression and suicide. This is why am for the Kelly Loving Act in hopes it would protect peoples right to their chosen gender identity and put in place defined laws ensuring these practices are followed.
Nik Van Gilder For	Hello, I'm a 43 year old non-binary resident of Colorado. Recently I had a severe medical attack of FND, functional Neurological Disorder and have lost control of

themselves	many of my functions which requires intense therapy and many medical visits. Each time I make an appointment I have to teach individuals my pronouns. Each form is different and there is no uniformity. This bill would help people like me get their necessary treatment while lessening the encounters of trauma triggers while they recover. I'm also a person who used to frequent Club Q. That was my community and my safe space. When it was attacked, my whole concept of safety was shattered. Kelly Loving deserves to be alive, my friends and everyone who died or was injured deserves to see the state provide protections to their gender autonomy during a time in politics where we are under attack. Fundamental rights are being stripped away with executive orders, what this act does is help protect all from those attacks.
Nancy Markel Against themselves	I am respectfully submitting this letter voting against this bill ((HB25-1312) as it undermines parents authority. It goes against the constitutional rights of parents, placing it in the hands of the government who cannot, and should not be there to raise our children. The language in this bill is very broad and vague using "coercive control" For the sake of all Colorado families I strongly urge you to vote against this bill.
Kim Sheets Against themselves	There is no circumstance where the government should have a say in parental issues.
Madeline Scott For themselves	Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, My name is Madeline Scott, and I am a proud resident of Lakewood, Colorado. I am writing today from a place of deep care and commitment to express my enthusiastic support for HB25-1312. This legislation is of great importance to all Coloradans who deserve to live as their authentic selves and free from fear. I have seen firsthand the challenges faced by our transgender community members, from discrimination in public spaces to the painful reality of violence. The tragic loss of Kelly Loving and others at Club Q was a devastating reminder of the urgent need for protective and affirming laws for all of our neighbors. Passing HB25-1312 is about more than just enacting good policy. It's about honoring human dignity and ensuring everyone can thrive as their true selves. It sends a powerful message that Colorado is committed to protecting its most vulnerable residents and cultivating a society grounded in compassion and equality for all.

	I urge you with heartfelt sincerity to support this crucial bill. Let's build a Colorado that values, protects, and celebrates every life. Thank you so much for your thoughtful consideration. Warm regards, Madeline Scott
Connie Russo Against themselves	There's no situation in which the government should be able to step into a child's life. Parents have been given children in order to raise and guide them and this INCLUDES any and all "gender" issues. Let Parents PARENT!!!
Todd Clapp Against themselves	As a parent and a Christian I strongly oppose this bill is because parents should have the right to do what they believe is best for their child without fear of loss of custody, especially when it comes to transgender issues. This bill shifts the responsibility of dealing with this difficult issue from the parent to the state and that is wrong. There are many people of faith that believe genders cannot be changed and this bill is in direct conflict with many of these peoples beliefs and values.
Rebecca Wilkes-Wagner For themselves	My name is Becky Wilkes-Wagner. I am writing in favor of this bill. I have a trans non binary sibling. I also have close trans friends. I seen both my sibling and friends struggle significantly with being misgendered, especially in healthcare settings. Ive seen them go through mental health crises because of being "othered" due to having to correct people when they are misgendered. My family and friends simply want to live their lives in peace. They work and they contribute positively to Colorado communities. I am also a former high school teacher at Colorado Early Colleges in Aurora. I made sure my students knew I was a safe person to go to. Unfortunately, the school didnt approve of me being vocal about my support. We all know high school is already a difficult time for teenagers and being misgendered by adults in your school, who are supposed to be supportive, makes life at school even more challenging. I firmly believe it is not the school's or school district's place to question or intefer in a student's choice to be called by a certain name or use their preferred pronouns. For example, it seems simple and reasonable enough that my birth name is Rebecca, but I prefer to be called Becky. But, somehow, if someone with a birthname of Sarah wants to be called Sar, then suddenly, folks are outraged. Or, if someone with a birthname of Jane wants to be called John, then people verbally attack that person or even cause them physical harm.

	I believe people fear what they don't understand. And this fear causes people to want to fight against what they don't understand. I wish I could say that if people personally knew a trans person, then their opinion would change. Unfortunately, this is not true. There are many adults who have trans family members and they refuse to use preferred names and pronouns of their loved ones. In my opinion, that choice is more about ego and selfishness than anything else. We often make things all about ourselves. We have to step back and understand that our own identity isn't threatened by using the preferred name and pronouns that someone else has. I urge lawmakers to pass the Kelly Loving Act!
Lorenzo Vigil For himself	To whom it may concern, I am Lorenzo Vigil a 28 year old CIS male and born and raised Coloradan. I am writing today to put my money where my mouth is and stand for something that matters in protecting our youth. With HB25-1312 I believe this to be a huge step forward in encouraging and protecting our youth both at home and in schools. Instead of being forced to shrink and recede their presences for being different, our trans-youth should be provided with support and a system of resources that let them know it is okay to be different and that our similarities will always outweigh our differences. With bills that aim to do the opposite of this bill they are shown to be increase suicide rates amongst our most vulnerable with the trans youth. This bill going into effect would let them know they are welcome on this planet and there is an actionable future for them to exist and grow up in. To attack and go against this bill is a critical moral failure and you are willfully choosing to attack those most vulnerable within our society. Such a small part of the composition of our society and yet they are vilified beyond belief. I implore you to look past whatever biases religious or societal you have and objective look at this bill for what it is; further protection for the vulnerable groups of our youth who are expected to grow up and become functional members of society. We have a sacred duty to prop up the next generation and this bill will give them the necessary resources to feel as though they are welcomed and can grow up in this world. It is our first step towards redemption from the disgusting society we currently live in. There can be change made as to increase the living standards of all and it starts with one vulnerable community at a time. Thank you. Sincerely, Lorenzo Vigil
Rebekah Grant Against himself	I am voicing my extreme concern about this bill. This completely takes away parental rights and is very unconstitutional. This will ruin children and ruin Colorado. Please do not pass this bill, it is ridiculous this can even be an option!

Christina Wheaton Against themselves	Good afternoon, Because I believe strongly that mental health and well-being is of great importance and want to support the individuals who experience gender dysphoria, this bill must be stopped today. The data shows that the vast majority of those who socially transition their gender (i.e. changing their name) go on to physically transition later. The data also shows that many people who medically transition experience initial relief, followed later by deep regret and an even worse sense of self and not-belonging as they are now permanently "stuck" as not quite any specific identity and can no longer relate to the vast majority of society. They've never healed the underlying trauma that led to dysphoria, then further only further isolated themselves and added to their misery. Many, many of these people commit suicide out of desperation. This is a heart-breaking and unnecessary end, as the data also shows that the vast majority of individuals who initially experience gender dysphoria ultimately work through it and come out with an affirmed sense of their biological sex as their true identity if they are just given the opportunity to sort through the "why" of that dysphoria, unearthing the actual trauma beneath it that is crying out to be healed. These individuals need people around them who love them (like their parents, friends, and mental health professionals), who are committed to helping them heal -- not being legally forced into affirming loved ones onto a path that will likely lead to their ultimate destruction. To be clear, I want transgender people to be free to make whatever decisions they believe will be best for them. However, they should be well-informed on the possible -- if not likely -- consequences of all their options. Their right to choose whatever name and medical procedures are best for them MUST NOT be enshrined at the cost of the Constitutional right and liberty of the individuals who disagree with them to say so. There are TWO citizens involved here, and BOTH have Constitutional rights to speech and beliefs that must be protected. We all NEED someone in our lives who disagrees with us to help sharpen and inform our decisions -- especially minors whose brains are literally not finished being formed yet who need guidance, not affirmation into every desire they have. This is a people group that are especially vulnerable to poor, ill-informed decisions and they need the guidance and anchoring influence of adults who are invested in them, as parents are. As a principle, the government is NOT intended to police personal disagreements among family members, nor is it the job of the government to parent children. It's the parent's job to parent children. I would ask the legislators: even if you support the intentions of this bill, do you want it to lay the groundwork for future legislation that can come between you and your children that you would NOT support?

	It is an egregious attack on parental rights, Constitutional rights, and ironically on the people it seeks most to serve. If you value transgender people, shift your focus instead to making laws that would force medical providers and mental health professionals to give their clients ALL the data and options, along with their possible consequences. A bill like that would ACTUALLY offer protections to the lives of transgender people. If you want to protect transgender people and to see them flourish, and if you value your own parental rights both now and in the future, and to fulfill your oaths to uphold the Constitution, please kill this bill. Thank you for your time, Christina Wheaton
Cody Cerise Against themselves	Hello, My name is Cody Cerise and I am asking that everyone would vote NO on bill HB25-1312. There are multiple reasons for this. One is that we have the God given right over our children to raise, protect, care for, and teach. The reason children are not able to be independent on their own at a young age is because they are not developed or matured fully in their brains, physically, mentally, or emotionally. Anyone who has children understands this. They need their parents and it is absolutely ridiculous to try and confuse them for no reason. The God given order is family. This is not the government's right. Second, every person is created in God's image and created either male or female. They are also fearfully and wonderfully made. Thirdly, if children are not taught to submit to their parents, they will not learn to submit to other authorities in their lives, which in turn will cause chaos. I hope that this will help you to think through this. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I trust that you will make a discerning decision that is right and true and that you will vote NO on HB25-1312. Respectfully, Cody Cerise
Mary Hernandez Against themselves	Hello and thank you for reading this! I am writing today as a concerned, Colorado voter. I am urging you to vote no or to not allow house bill 25-1312 to go through! The choice of whether or not a student should be allowed to use a pronoun or a name other than their birth name should be left in the parent hands, not the schools or government for that matter! There is significant evidence that transgenderism is

	harmful to children. That alone should be enough but this bill takes it to another level — removing parental rights! Hundreds of thousands of Colorado workers could suddenly find themselves at risk of prosecution for a “discriminatory act” – so-called “deadnaming” or “misgendering” someone in a place of public accommodation (retail, restaurants, and many other businesses). Coloradans should not have to choose between forced adherence to gender ideology and their constitutional rights of free speech and freedom of religion. I have worked in education for over 15 years here in Colorado, I have seen the negative impact transgenderism has on today's youth! Many students struggle during their puberty years, but given the chance they would overcome many of the issues they deal with, including transgender ideology. First and foremost, the parents of these children should have the right to decide what happens with their children. After all, they are the ones paying for all of their care and medical expenses until they are 18 years old!! This should not be up to the government! Again, as a concerned, Colorado tax paying citizen, I am asking that you do not allow HB 25-1312 to go through!! Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Mary Hernandez
Emily Irwin For themselves	Dear Members of the Colorado State Legislature, I am writing in strong support of HB25-1312 to Protect Trans Rights. As a woman who doesn't conform to traditional gender expectations, and as someone whose loved ones include non-binary and transgender individuals, I understand firsthand how crucial these protections are. I know what it feels like to be judged for not fitting into society's narrow definition of how a woman should look or behave. My more masculine presentation has led to uncomfortable stares, judgmental comments, and a sense of being somehow “wrong” for simply being myself. But my experiences are just a glimpse of the challenges that my transgender and non-binary loved ones face every day.

	My partner is non-binary, and through them, I've had the privilege of being part of a vibrant community of people who express their gender in beautiful and diverse ways. I've watched my partner explore different facets of their gender through drag performance, and I've seen the joy and freedom that comes with being able to express one's authentic self. I've also seen the fear in their eyes when they encounter discrimination or hostility. One of my closest friends is non-binary, and through our friendship, I've learned how even simple daily activities can become challenging without proper legal protections. Through my connections to the drag community, I've met countless individuals who deserve the right to live openly and safely, without fear of discrimination or violence. What I've learned from these relationships is that gender expression isn't just about appearance—it's about the fundamental human right to be who you are. When I see my loved ones face discrimination in healthcare, employment, or public spaces, it breaks my heart. No one should have to hide who they are or fear for their safety simply for existing authentically. HB25-1312 isn't just about politics—it's about protecting the people I love. It's about ensuring that my partner can walk down the street without fear. It's about making sure my friends can access healthcare without discrimination. It's about creating a Colorado where everyone, regardless of how they express their gender, can live with dignity and respect. I urge you to support this crucial legislation. Every day without these protections puts our trans and non-binary community members at risk. As someone who loves people directly affected by this bill, I can tell you that your vote matters not just as policy, but as a statement about the kind of society we want to be—one that embraces and protects all of its members. Thank you for considering my testimony on this vital issue. Sincerely, Emily
Nicole Villanueva Against herself	Madame Chair; I strongly oppose HB25-1312 and implore my elected officials to vote NO on this bill. This bill proposes shocking overreach in the role of the government into families by forcing parents to affirm a gender confused child and criminally punishing them as abusive if they don't. This bill would egregiously take away the role of parents as the ultimate protectors and developers of their children, and allow the government to dictate how they must raise their offspring. Who else could possibly care more about guiding, protecting, and acting in the best interests of their own child than his parents? And, how many children have confusing thoughts about gender or attractions at some point in their childhoods?.....many. I shudder to

	imagine a world where commonly experienced thoughts of gender confusion or attractions in childhood quickly become parents forced to affirm and promote those confusions, resulting in a child taking dangerous and permanently altering drugs, or electing for dangerous, permanently mutilating surgery. The consequences of these medical actions can be physically and mentally devastating, and our children have a right to be protected from these risks, for whose lifelong consequences they cannot possibly comprehend. We must protect our generations of children from harm not by silencing and threatening their parents, but by protecting the freedom of families to raise their children according to their beliefs and compelled by their love for their offspring. Please vote NO on HB25-1312.
Arianna Stiles For themselves	I am a school nurse taking care of trans and non binary students. I cannot tell you how scared these children, In addition to people I love, are given the current political climate. Students have a right to choose who they are. Success rates are much higher in trans and non binary youth due to already present stigmas in our society and lack of support. We need these students to stay alive to become who they're meant to be; regardless if they decide to transition or not. Representatives, you have all been given a chance to be who you want to be, even if you choose not to remain in authenticity or not. Please give these kids a chance to be safe and explore individuality. We've had enough people die at the hands of people who choose not to educate themselves and let personal rhetoric guide their decisions. Please don't let Kelly's death be in vain. Thank you
Andrew Kallestad Against themselves	Dear Senators and Governor Polis, I am Writing to express my strong opposition to HB25-1312. I am urging you—do not destroy freedom in Colorado! This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday, silencing the voices of concerned Coloradans and cutting off critical debate. That alone should raise alarms about the process. Even more concerning is that this bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children. Parents—not the government—know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are best equipped to make decisions about their children’s well-being. This bill tramples constitutional rights and turns loving parents into criminals simply for protecting their children. We are not criminals. We are parents. This bill doesn’t just target parents—it threatens every Colorado school, business, and public institution by forcing them to comply with government-mandated speech and ideology. Under HB25-1312, using a child's given name or acknowledging biological sex could trigger lawsuits, loss of custody, or civil penalties. Schools would be forced to hide gender identity changes from parents. Businesses—including faith-based organizations—would be compelled to affirm ideas they do not believe, or face legal action. This is not protection—it is coercion.

	HB25-1312's vague, broad language will create fear, confusion, and the tragic destruction of families. It will chill free speech, force ideological compliance, and pit the state against its own citizens. Colorado citizens should never fear government retaliation for speaking biological truth or standing by their convictions. For the sake of our families, our schools, our businesses, and the future of Colorado, I respectfully urge you: stand for parental rights, protect freedom, and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Chantelle Calvin For themselves	Mr. And Mrs. Chair and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to be able to write to you today. My name is Chantelle Calvin and I am representing myself and I am in support of the passing of this bill. Transgender people are not these boogeyman that the media and other politicians make them out to be. They're regular everyday people like you and me. Are people in this country suddenly not allowed to pursue their own happiness? When did that become illegal to do? When did calling people by their preferred names become so taboo? Nicknames seem to be alright, but as soon as a trans man or trans woman wants to be called by their preferred names, it's a problem. I was once friends with a trans woman and as soon as she told me her chosen name, I made the switch immediately. I never once called her by her dead name not even after we weren't friends anymore. I went to high school with a Trans man who came out to our entire graduating class. For the most part, he had an outpouring of love and support and we all called him by his preferred name. I sat next to him during graduation and they said his dead name and I watched him whince. My heart broke. No one deserves to feel that way. Ever. Trans people 100% deserve to have respect. Whether it is at work, home, school, and event etc. Every single person is deserving of respect. Why can't a trans man or women have the same level of basic respect over a name change? To not call trans people by their preferred names is discrimination and a violation of that individuals first amendment rights.
Danielle Thoene For themselves	I urge our state legislators to support HB25-1312 to protect the rights of our transgender friends, family, and neighbors. This bill would ensure our transgender community is treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. This bill also helps to keep families intact and protects access to life-saving, gender-affirming healthcare. Thank you for your consideration and please vote YES on HB25-1312.
Katelyn Conlon Against themselves	I am writing to urgently ask you to vote NO on HB25-1312. This bill was rushed through the House on a Sunday under Rule 16, cutting off the voices of concerned citizens. That alone should raise serious alarms. But even more concerning is the bill itself — a massive overreach into private family matters and an attack on free speech.

	Parents — not the government — are the ones who know, love, and sacrifice daily for their children. They are the ones who are best equipped to make important decisions for their own families. Do you really believe the government is better at raising children than their own parents? What will happen when you remove children from their homes over disagreements like these? Who will care for them? It will not be someone who knows them, who loves them unconditionally, or who would give anything to protect them. It will be strangers — people who can never replace a parent's love. This bill's broad and vague language around "coercive control" — including normal parental speech like using a child's given name — will only create confusion, fear, and the wrongful tearing apart of families. For the sake of our children, our families, and the future of Colorado, I urge you: stand up for what is right and vote NO on HB25-1312.
Trevor Stonehouse Against himself	Hello, My name is Trevor Stonehouse. Thank you for having me here to share my perspective. I am a father to 2 children, a 12 year old son and a 7 year old daughter. I was married last year and I have 2 step children, 2 boys ages 6 and 8. In 2020 I was divorced, and in 2021 my daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. I have always been present for my children, and of course with Cecelias' diagnosis I had to step up even more. I have split custody of my 2 children, as does my wife. My children currently have hard times coming to my house and leaving their mother's home. Luckily my ex-wife wants our children to have a present father in their lives. However, disciplining children that you do not have full custody of or time together, can prove to be difficult. My children may feel that I am "mean" because I have "boundaries" in my home. If they feel that the boundaries I enforce are unfair to them, this Bill Scares me. I communicate the boundaries with my ex-wife and she agrees. We are just looking to raise good kids. Not only does this Bill it empower and coach children in joint custody situations to "pick a side", it also removes rights from a parent who has done nothing wrong. I understand true child abuse situations, but if I tell my child no phone before bedtime, they can come back and say I abused them. My problem with this bill is that there is no validation from the parent. How are we vetting the child's statements? I understand the intention of this bill it to protect children from "unloving" parents. If a child doesn't like their phone being taken away from them, they can find a way to remove the "strict" parent with boundaries from their lives. Cecelia is 7 years old. She is just learning to understand how her body works. She is fascinated by bodies. She wants to understand why her body is different. Sometimes she has hard days and thinks that it's not fair that she has Type 1 diabetes and other

	people don't. But she doesn't completely understand how a pancreas works, what insulin does, and why her body is different. But, this Bill would allow her to become a boy if she thinks that is the solution to her problem. There is no time period that she is advised to explore the option of becoming a boy. She doesn't understand her body in regards to the condition she has had for 4 + years, the majority of her life. However this bill would allow her to change her gender at the drop of a hat. She would no longer be able to have children or be a mother. There would be no time to discuss this loss with her. Minors can't consent to sexual activity until age 17, purchase a lottery ticket until age 18. My daughter has had a medical condition for 4 years that she is too young to understand completely / scientifically. But this bill would allow her to change her gender? Not only that, if one of her parents invites her to "pump the brakes" and coaches her to explore all of her options before making that significant decision, the custodial rights of the parent can be taken away permanently? Regardless of how you feel about trans-rights, this bill is ABSOLUTELY removing parental rights from loving parents. If you look at the facts, 1% of transitional surgeries occur before age 18. On average 80% of children under 18 change their minds and do not continue into adulthood as transgender. However, during this period where a loving parent's perspective and guidance would be MOST VALUABLE, the parent would LOSE CUSTODIAL RIGHTS. Follow the money trail people. This is an unregulated industry. The companies performing these procedures are going to advocate for the procedure. They don't get paid if they don't perform the surgery. I'm sure you need to sign plenty of waivers saying if you change your mind it's not your fault. A child under 18 is not going to understand the repercussions of these actions. Just to recap, minors under 18 CANNOT: buy a gun, buy cigarettes, buy alcohol, buy bullets, purchase lottery tickets, PAWN THEIR POSSESSIONS, get married without parents consent, vote, gamble, consent to sexual activity, elect to emancipate, they must be 18 to obtain BIRTH CONTROL INFORMATION WITHOUT PARENTAL CONTROL. I truly do not see how if these actions are NOT allowed for minors, how would gender change be allowed? All of these actions consider that the minor's brain has not fully developed. How would gender identity be any different? All that I see happening here is families being torn apart because of a whimsical child, or a system influencing them. There is no "love" here in this bill. It almost seems designed to take children away from parents. Please, let's reconsider this Bill to promote parental guidance, love, and support. As lawmakers and adults, proper guidance and leadership of our youth is what we should be promoting. Not a "way out" if you don't like the options. Thank you

Kelly King Against themselves	It was incredibly disrespectful to your constituents the way testimony was handled today and tonight. Trying to silence those who oppose you was VERY OBVIOUS! This is the second time in a month that some was overlooked and silenced. Had I had the chance to testify this is what I was going to tell you all: Chairwoman and members of the committee, Im also asking that you truly hear and listen to the testimonies opposed to your views. I'm here today as a concerned parent, a guardian of my children's future, and a citizen who cares deeply about mankind and the freedoms we hold dear. HB25-1312 is a direct threat to the very fabric of our families and our society. As a parent, it's my God-given responsibility to protect, guide, and nurture my child. This bill undermines that sacred trust, inserting government control where it doesn't belong. It silences parents, restricts our ability to advocate for our children, and erodes the foundation of family autonomy. I'm so grateful that I went through my tomboy years in a time where the government had zero say in how my mother handled that season of my life and that I was loved and allowed to move through it in truth and reality. I'd also like to thank my mom for not using that season of my life to try and use it to get more attention ton for herself. By the grace of God- I made it to adulthood and the sweet blessing of motherhood with the ability to live out the beauty of birthing and nourishing my children. Furthermore, this bill is a slap in the face to the First Amendment. It stifles free speech, suppresses dissenting voices, and creates a chilling atmosphere of fear and self-censorship. We can't afford to let government dictate what we can and can't say about issues that matter most to us. I'd also like to say on record that the couches mentioned in opening statements and other situations happening across Colorado should be investigated thoroughly for grooming and potential sexual abuse. I would also like to state that the current statistic is that those that have transitioned are 19 times more likely to take their own lives, and I personally know firsthand this statistic to be true. I am perplexed as to why you would name this bill after Kelly, who was killed by a mentally unstable trans identifying man. Very confusing to me. I urge you to consider the consequences of this bill. What kind of society are we creating when we silence parents, restrict free speech, and empower government overreach? I implore you to stand with families, stand with freedom, and reject HB25-1312. Let's protect the rights of parents, the integrity of our families, and the constitutional right of freedom of speech that has made our country great. Vote against this bill and uphold the values that make America strong.

	KellIt King
Ian Barry For themselves	My name is Ian Barry, representing myself, and I am here to support this bill because it frightens me to see bigotry and scapegoating rearing their ugly heads and sometimes even being endorsed by the courts and schools with which we entrust the safety of our children. The first time I ever heard anything about a trans person, I was overhearing two boys talking in the high school locker room while we all changed after gym class. They were talking about a trans woman employed at the Fort Collins DMV. They did not know any name she had ever used, so they were unable to deadname her, but they misgendered her repeatedly. I don't mean to say just that they used "he/him" pronouns to refer to her, but that they called her "an it" and "a he/she," and used similar terminology that was widely understood within their cohort to be derogatory. They spoke about her as though she were not even human. I was a child and understood little about transmisogyny or scapegoating, so when I visited the DMV for my driver's license test, I was worried that the hatred I had overheard toward this woman might somehow have been justified. I remember silently begging to be tested by anyone but her and feeling a pang of anxiety when I discovered she would indeed conduct my test. She wore gold hoop earrings, and in beginning the test, she warmly reminded me to breathe and reassured me that I didn't have to grip the steering wheel so hard. The test went smoothly, and I began to realize just how absurd that locker room hatred was. This realization was only reinforced when a friend of mine in a college physics course began growing their hair long and wearing a sarong to class. When another friend from the same class checked in with me years later bearing a new name and a new smile. When my own brother sat down with me at a sandwich shop and explained to me the journey he had been privately undertaking to better understand his own gender identity. The discomfort I once felt in these moments has since faded, to be replaced mostly by sadness at just how much vitriol I have seen directed at so many of the most beautiful, understanding, compassionate, warm, and helpful people I have ever met. And I urge each of you to join me in supporting HB25-1312 to protect these members of our community, whose compassion and patience is needed more desperately now than ever.
Sallie Moore Against themselves	"All laws which are repugnant to the Constitution are null and void" Marbury vs Madison yr1803 The general rule is that an unconstitutional statute, though having the form &name of law,is in reality no law, but is wholly void, and ineffective for any purpose...

	"No one is bound to obey an unconstitutional law and no courts are bound to enforce it" 16 Am Jur 2d,Sec 177 late 2d, Sec 256 "It is error alone which needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself." Thomas Jefferson AI's overview You typically have to use your legal name on documents where its essential for identification & verification, such as legal contracts, government forms, official documents like drivers licenses, deeds,court papers, social security, tax forms, passport, Bank account, credit cards, payroll records, employment forms, Background checks, diplomas, official transcripts & student records generally require your legal name to reflect your educational achievements accurately. Insurance forms, marriage licenses, department of corrections, registering to vote, registration of a vehicle, buying property. *Nothing legal can use a nickname, alias or preferred name. But this bill would lend to it being illegal for a parent, employer, and whoever else to use a legal name for someone 'if they don't prefer it' *Using the wrong name is illegal in a police interaction. 25 1312 is a bad idea,please vote no!
Sallie Moore Against themselves	"All laws which are repugnant to the Constitution are null and void" Marbury vs Madison yr1803 The general rule is that an unconstitutional statute, though having the form & name of law,is in reality no law, but is wholly void, and ineffective for any purpose... "No one is bound to obey an unconstitutional law and no courts are bound to enforce it" 16 Am Jur 2d,Sec 177 late 2d, Sec 256 "It is error alone which needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself." Thomas Jefferson AI's overview You typically have to use your legal name on documents where its essential for identification & verification, such as legal contracts, government forms, official documents like drivers licenses, deeds,court papers, social security, tax forms, passport, Bank account, credit cards, payroll records, employment forms, Background checks, diplomas, official transcripts & student records generally require your legal name to reflect your educational achievements accurately.

	Insurance forms, marriage licenses, department of corrections, registering to vote, registration of a vehicle, buying property. *Nothing legal can use a nickname, alias or preferred name. But this bill would lend to it being illegal for a parent, employer, and whoever else to use a legal name for someone 'if they don't prefer it' *Using the wrong name is illegal in a police interaction. This is the state having way to much power to force one person to abide to the whims of another. This is forced speach, against my freedom of speech, my freedom of religion, and parental rights. 25 1312 is a bad idea,please vote no! This bill makes more coloradoans unsafe.
Rafa Veintimilla For themselves	Affirming queer youth identities, and having affirming adults and spaces in youth lives, reduces suicidal risk and ideation by 40%. HB25-1312 offers life-saving protection for LGBTQIA2S+ youth, and centers their individual choice, rights, and freedoms of expression. To support HB25-1312 is to be on the right side of history.

Testimony in Support of HB25-1312 – The Kelly Loving Act

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marcella Schieffelin, I live in Mesa County, and I'm testifying in my behalf.

I am writing in strong support of HB25-1312 because it affirms the basic human right to self-determination, dignity, and legal protection—especially for transgender individuals in Colorado.

When someone changes their name after marriage or moves to a new state and changes their statehood, we honor those decisions as expressions of identity. We don't demand proof or question their legitimacy—we celebrate them. The same should be true when a transgender person takes steps to live as their authentic self. It's not special treatment. It's equal treatment.

Some parents may not agree with their child's identity, especially when religious beliefs are involved. But disagreement is not the same as rejection or control. A parent's role is to nurture, guide, and support—not impose beliefs. True guidance involves creating space for exploration and understanding, not demanding conformity. Faith-based values must not be weaponized to deny others their rights.

Religious liberty should never mean the liberty to deny someone else's humanity. If we protect religious convictions, we must protect *all* of them. Jewish law, for example, supports access to abortion in ways Christian doctrine may not—yet policy decisions often reflect only one tradition. Whose faith are we truly protecting?

According to the Public Religion Research Institute, 76% of Americans support nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people. Even those who don't fully understand or agree with someone's gender identity still believe in fairness under the law.

Being transgender is not a belief system—it is a lived identity. Respecting that identity by using chosen names, affirming pronouns, and protecting people from targeted discrimination is not a political act. It is a moral one.

HB25-1312 does not force agreement—it asks for respect. It does not punish beliefs—it protects people. It ensures that in Colorado, all people—including those most vulnerable to violence, isolation, and legal erasure—can live with safety and dignity.

I urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you.